ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Crown Copyright documents reproduced by courtesy of The National Archives, London, England.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The National Archives give no warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or fitness for the purpose of the information provided.

Images may be used only for purposes of research, private study or education. Applications for any other use should be made to The National Archives Image Library, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU.

EASTERN

F.O. 371

1947

PALESTINE

FILE No. 48

pp. 9233 - 9820

CLOSED UNTIL 1978

61830

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

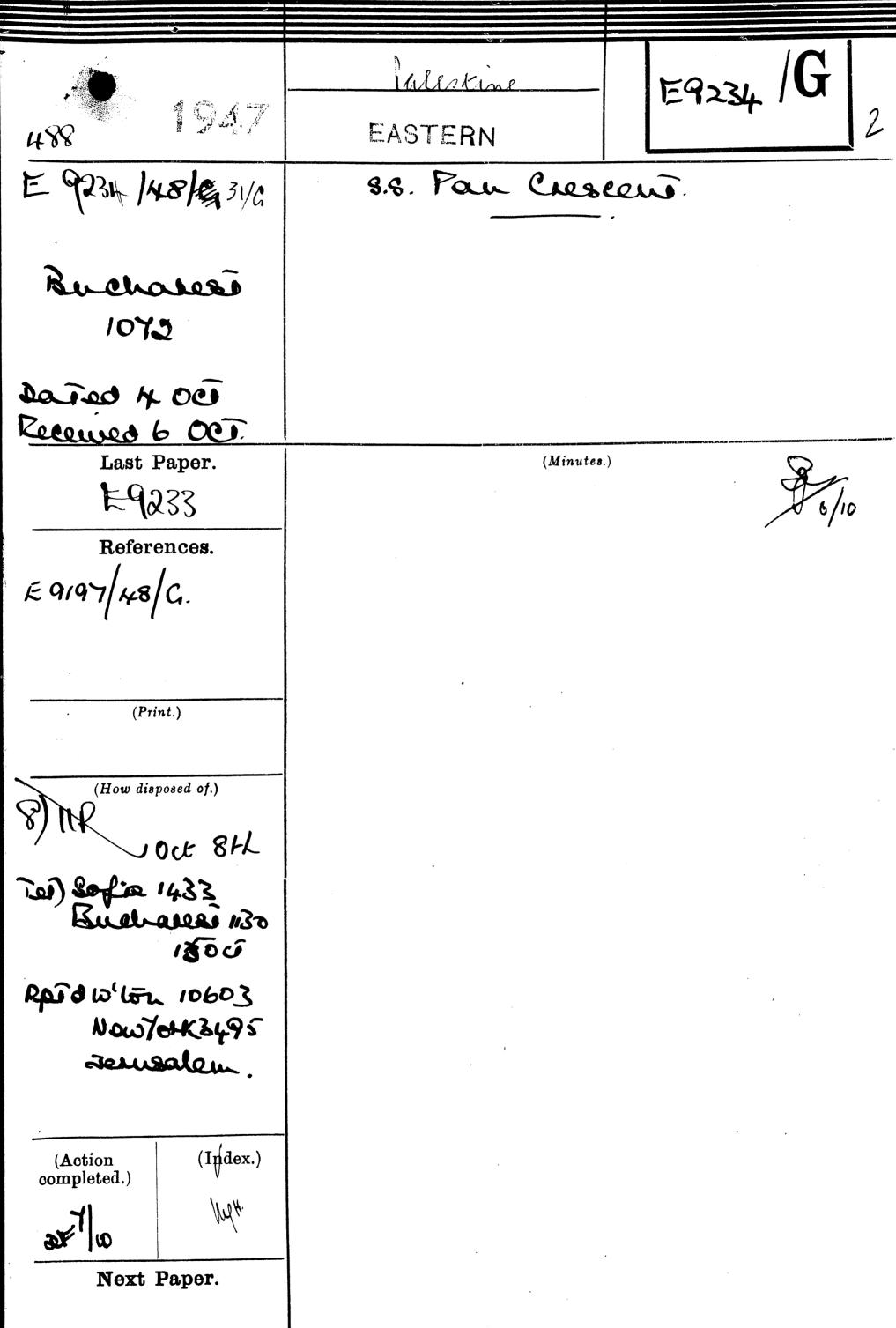
Group.	Fo
Class.	37/
	61830

Following document(s) retained in the

Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

of the Public Records Act, 1958

E9233/48/31



30047 F.O.P.

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Helman, No. 1072 D: 11.50 a.m. 4th October, 1947

Ne.1072 4th October, 1947.

R: 3.45 p.m. 4th October, 1947

Repeated to Sofia

Jerusalem

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean,

Malta,

Middle East Office Cairo

Moscow

Angera.

IMMEDIATE.

Cenfidential.

Egiat

My telegram No.1067.

S.S. Pan Crescent.

Reliable information indicates that the work going on inside this ship is the erection of bunks.

- 2. Reperted same source, vessel will not be ready to embark all passengers until October 7th.
- 7. Jews] have arrived Constantza and appear to be group leaders.
- 4. Trains with emigrants are expected at Constantza on October 6th and 7th but the position is being closely watched both at Bucharest and Constantza in case of earlier departure of trains from here and embarkation at Constantza.
- Reumanian Gevernment but I doubt whether it will have much effect.
- 6. Kendall and Naval Attache propose to go to Constantza to observe embarkation or at least arrival of trains of observation proves impossible.

Jerusalem, Cemmander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta and important to Middle East Office Caire and Angera as my telegrams Nes [grp undec.] 7, 18 and [grp undec. ?32] respectively.

[Repeated to B.M.E.O. and Angera and copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office and War Registry Admiralty for repetition to Jerusalem and Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta].

AAAA

Registry Secret. **Confidential** Restricted.

BUCHAREST //30

IMMEDIATE CONFIDENTIAL

Telegram.

Repeat to:

WASHINGTON 10603

U. K. DELEGATION

JERUSALEM

Cypher.

Distribution: Cabinet

Copies to:-I. I. P.

F. O.,

Personal from Secretary of State.

I have been considering report by Official committee on Illegal Immigration which reveals that the arrival of Pan Crescent and Pan York in Palestine waters with their estimated load & of/illegal immigrants will cause a critical situation.in regard to accommodation in Cyprus. Please impress upon the Bulgarian/Rumanian Government that I personally attach the highest importance to preventing the departure of either of these vess fes with illegal immigrants. There is no doubt whatsoever about the intentions of those responsible for organisi traffic and, whatever false documents or visas may be produced by the Jews, I can ase Bulgarian/Rumanian Government that none of the passengers can possibly be in possession of a permit to enter Palestine (or indeed for any of the Arab States which were mentioned by the Bulgarian authorities as being the destination of the last batch).

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO SOFIA NO. 1433.

BUCHAREST NO. 1130.

15th October 1947. D. 2.50 a.m. 16th October 1947. Repeated to Washington No. 10603, United Kingdom Delegation New York No. 3495, Jerusalem.

IMMEDIATE. CONFIDENTIAL.

Your telegram No. 1237 [of September 30th: Jewish No. 1072 [of October 4th: Illegal Immigration].

I have been considering report by Official Committee on Illegal Immigration which reveals that the arrival of Pan Crescent and Pan York in Palestine waters with their estimated load of 16,500 illegal immigrants will Please impress upon the create a critical situation. Bulgarian/Roumanian Government that His Majesty's Government attach the highest importance to preventing the departure of either of these vessels with illegal immigrants. There is no doubt whatsoever about the intentions of these responsible for operating the ships and, whatever false documents or visas may be produced by the Jews, the Bulgarian/Roumanian Government can be assured that none of the passengers can possibly be in possession of a permit to enter Palestine (or indeed for any of the Arab States which were mentioned by the Bulgarian authorities as being the destination of some of the last batch).

371/51830

THE PUBLIC

OFFICE,

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Holman. No. 1067.

D. 1.58 p.m. 3rd October 1947.

3rd October 1947.

R. 4.10 p.m. 3rd October 1947.

Repeated to: Angora,

Malta, Sofia, Moscow, Jerusalem.

IMMEDIATE,

CONFIDENTIAL.

My telegram No.1051.

S.S. Pan Crescent.

Extensive carpentering work is being done in this vessel but I have no information as to its nature.

- 2. A large number of wooden crates have been loaded on board. Roumanian Port authorities are according all facilities to the vessel and organisers.
- 3. It is reliably reported that some 6,000 Jews will be embarked on this vessel. Some are already waiting at Constantza but it is not known whether the vessel will call at a Bulgarian port for more passengers.
- 4. It is reported that the vessel will be ready to sail October 5th and passengers awaiting at Constantza expect to leave on that day.

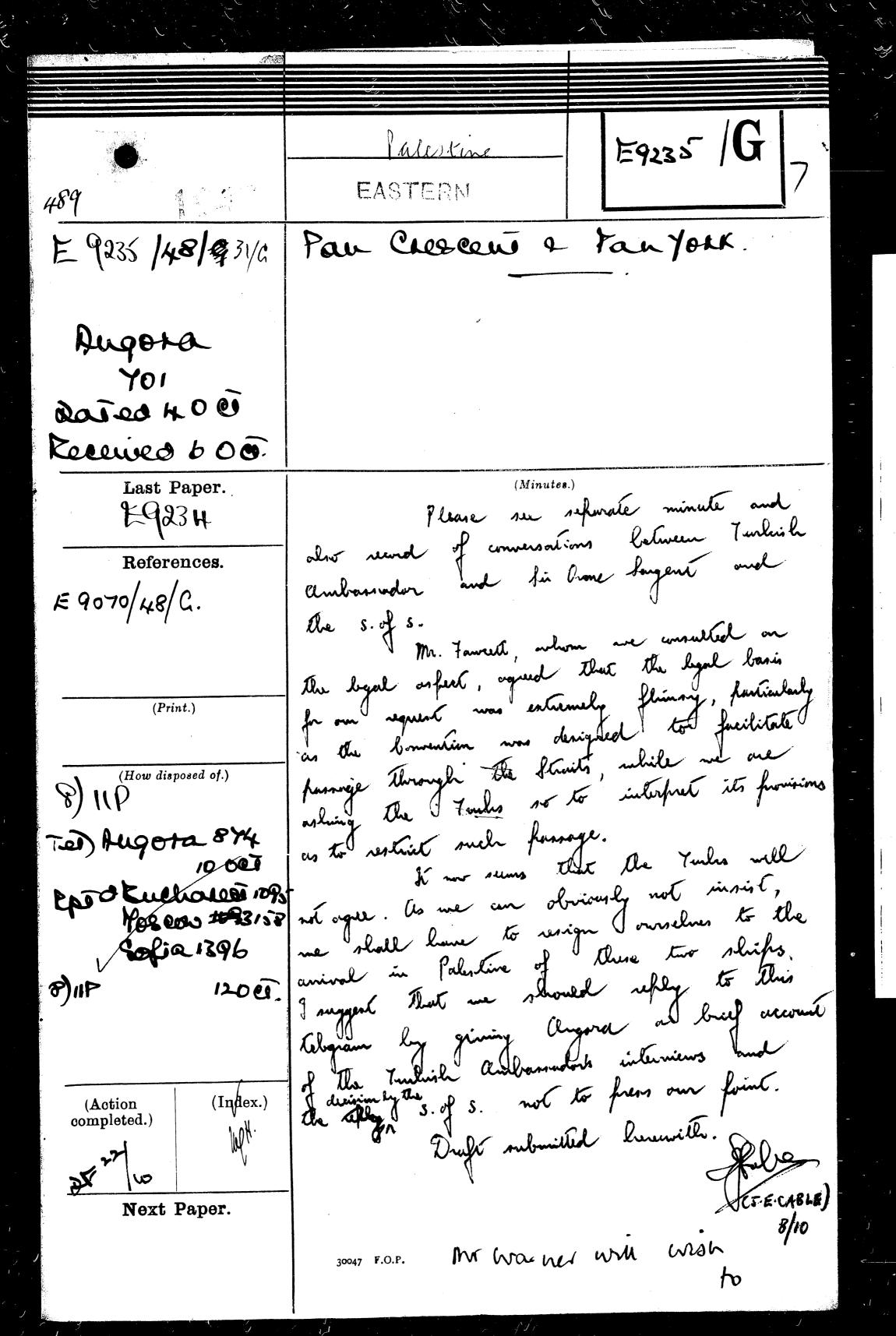
Foreign Office please repeat to Angora, Malta, Jerusalem as my telegrams Nos. 31, 6, and 51 respectively.

[Repeated to Angora.

Copies sent to the Admiralty for repetition to Malta.

Copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office, for repetition to Jerusalem.]

W:W:W:W



to see these minutes and the further action in organd to Sir O. Sorgents intervew avin to Turkish Ambassader, with reference to his paraised uste on the attrebel Spare Copy.

As Mr Cable says, we in rind of the must now wearings for Psimiling the entry arrival in Palestine waters I me tan York and Pan Croscent, both Physis Capable of Carrying 8000

Drieft tel . to Angerrae De Beint

i Sofia les 33 to voluea de un

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM ANGORA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir D. Kelly. No. 701 D. 1.48 p.m. 4th October 1947 R. 5.00 p.m. 4th October 1947

4th October 1947
Repeated to Bucharest
Sofia
Moscow.

IMMEDIATE. LIGHT SECRET. rgo (o

Your telegram No. 840.

I gave the Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning letter containing the substance of your telegram and also saw the Secretary General and gave him letter of warning regarding the "Pan York".

- 2. Both the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Secretary General said frankly that the real difficulties were:
- (a) giving the Russians ground for charging them with breach of the Montreux convention, and
 - (b) having the Jews left on their own hands.
- 3. As regards (a) they pointed out that the convention provided only for sanitary centrel and if necessary sanitary guard and had no provision to compel merchant vessel to enter Turkish port in any circumstances.
- 4. As regards (b) Secretary General in particular dwelt en the likeliheed of ship refusing to return, if necessary reserting to sabotage. They both pressed for assurance that in your view action we suggested (compulsary entry into Turkish port followed by orders to return to the Black Sea) really was legal. I said we definitely proposed this action although we would be glad if they would find alternatives which they preferred, and as regards international repercussions, I insisted on reactions in the Arab world. I received earnest assurances that they realised the increased gravity and would re-examine all possibilities with the utmost good will.
- 4.[sic] The position of the Bosphorus;
- (a) the Turkish Government fully appreciate our situation and in addition to goodwill, which I do not doubt, are interested in our, and their own, relations with the Arab world,

THE PUBLIC

- any consideration for the present case. If they unduly strained its previsions in order to invoke safety of life at sea they risk both Russian criticism and finding themselves saddled with Jewish immigrants.
- I hope it is not assumed that while we are impotent vis a vis the Bulgarian and Roumanian Governments, we pessess the means of pressure on the Turkish Government if the latter are unwilling to resert to dubiously legal measures or risk having the Jews dumped on them. We no longer have the indirect means of pressure we had a year ago when the Turks were receiving free military instruction, were hoping for military supplies from us, and were making us substantial sales of goods against sterling which centrary to expectation, is new blocked and in respect of which we are endeavouring to avoid giving guarantee (These sales have against possible devaluation. invelved autematic increase in note circulation which they blame in part for their deteriorated financial situation).
- 5. I refer to above considerations only in order to avoid any over estimation of our bargaining power, but I have no reason to doubt the Turkish Government wish sincerely to help, short of doing anything they think involves grave risk for themselves.
- 6. As regards the last sentence of your telegram under reference Naval Attaché has throughout been in close contact with Istanbul naval authorities.

Foreign Office please pass to Bucharest and Mescew as my telegrams Nes. 14 and 22.

[Repeated to Bucharest and Mescow].

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | Reference | 371 5 1830

9

RECORD OFFICE,

Registry No. E. 9235/48/G JEC Confidential. Restricted. Draft. ANGORA Telegram. (Date)..... Repeat to:-BUCHAREST No. 1093 moscow ng. 3/58 SOFIA No. 1396 Private Secretary Cypher.

F. O.,

IMPORTANT. ONFIDENTIAL

Your Telegram Number 701 Z of 4th October: Jewish Illegal Immigration J Turkish Ambassador discussed this question when he saw me yesterday. He had previously seen Sir Orme Sargent, who explained to him importance H. M. G. attached to preventing passage through the Straits of ships carrying Jewish illegal immigrants and emphasised effect on Arab opinion which would result from Turkish failure to take action. Turkish Ambassador maintained that action proposed would be illegal.

I have decided not to press the Turkish Government further to prevent the passage of these ships through the Straits, in view of the dangers to fau delicate position.

Copies to:-I. I. P.

Distribution:-

CABINET

This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

E.9235/48/G. Confidential.

CYPHER/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ANGORA

No. 874.

10th October, 1947.

D: 8.45 a.m. 11th October, 1947.

Repeated to: Bucharest No. 1095, Moscow No.3158, Sofia No.1396.

IMPORTANT CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 701 [of 4th October: Jewish Illegal Immigration].

Turkish Ambassador discussed this question when he saw me yesterday. He had previously seen Sir Orme Sargent, who explained to him importance His Majesty's Government attached to preventing passage through the Straits of ships carrying Jewish illegal immigrants and emphasised effect on Arab opinion which would result from Turkish failure to take action. Turkish Ambassador maintained that action proposed would be illegal.

2. I have decided not to press the Turkish Government further to prevent the passage of these ships through the Straits, in view of the Turkish Government's delicate position.

@@@

FO 371/51830

1=

E9235 Ci 15 00T 1947 12

Doypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.L.

FROM SOFTA TO JERUSALEM

Mr. Sterndale Bennett No. 55 D. 9.05 a.m. October 15th, 1947. October 15th, 1947. R. 10.50 a.m. October 15th, 1947.

Repeated to FOREIGN OFFICE No. 1508
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

THEDIATE

Your telegrem No. 1596.

Can you say for what country or countries collective visas purported to be valid?

Foreign Office please pass Immediate to Jerusalem and to Commander-In-Chief Mediterranean as my telegrams Nos. 85 and 6 respectively.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office and War Registry Admiralty for repetition to Jerusalem and Commanderin-Chief Mediterranean respectively]

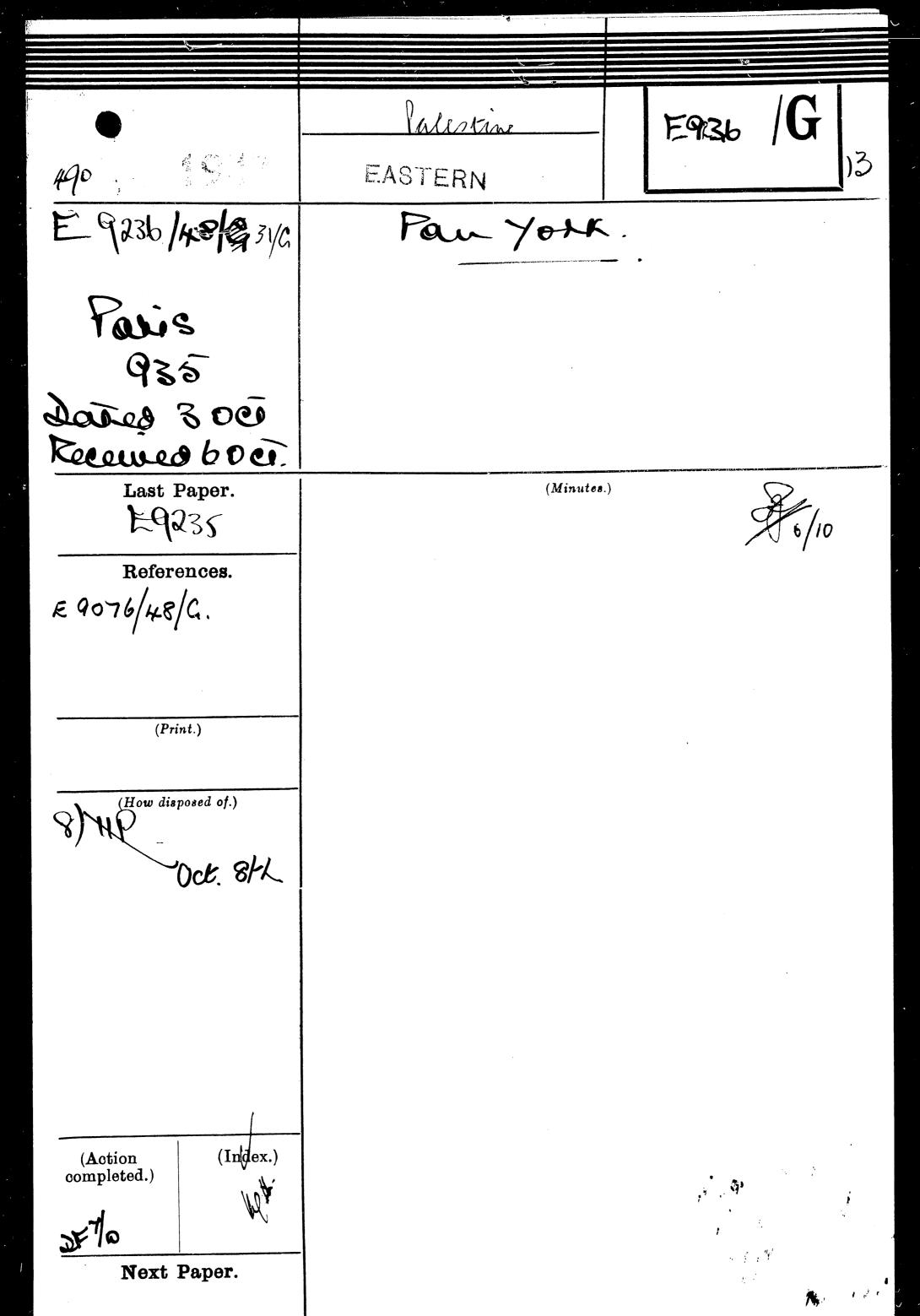
500T 1017

15,001 1941.

pp in depi

8)116

Reference **FO** 371/\$1830



30047 F.O.P.

E

Opeen

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Ashley Clarke.

No. 935 3rd October, 1947 D. 6.15 p.m. 3rd October, 1947 R. 9.05 p.m. 3rd October, 1947

Repeated to Marseilles.

IMPORTANT

CONFIDENTIAL

ractle

Your telegram No. 2142.

S.S. Pan York.

ministry of Foreign Affairs to whom your concern was strongly represented have warned ministry of the Interior to keep a look out for intending passengers and have asked ministry of Merchant Marine to try and find means of holding up the ship.

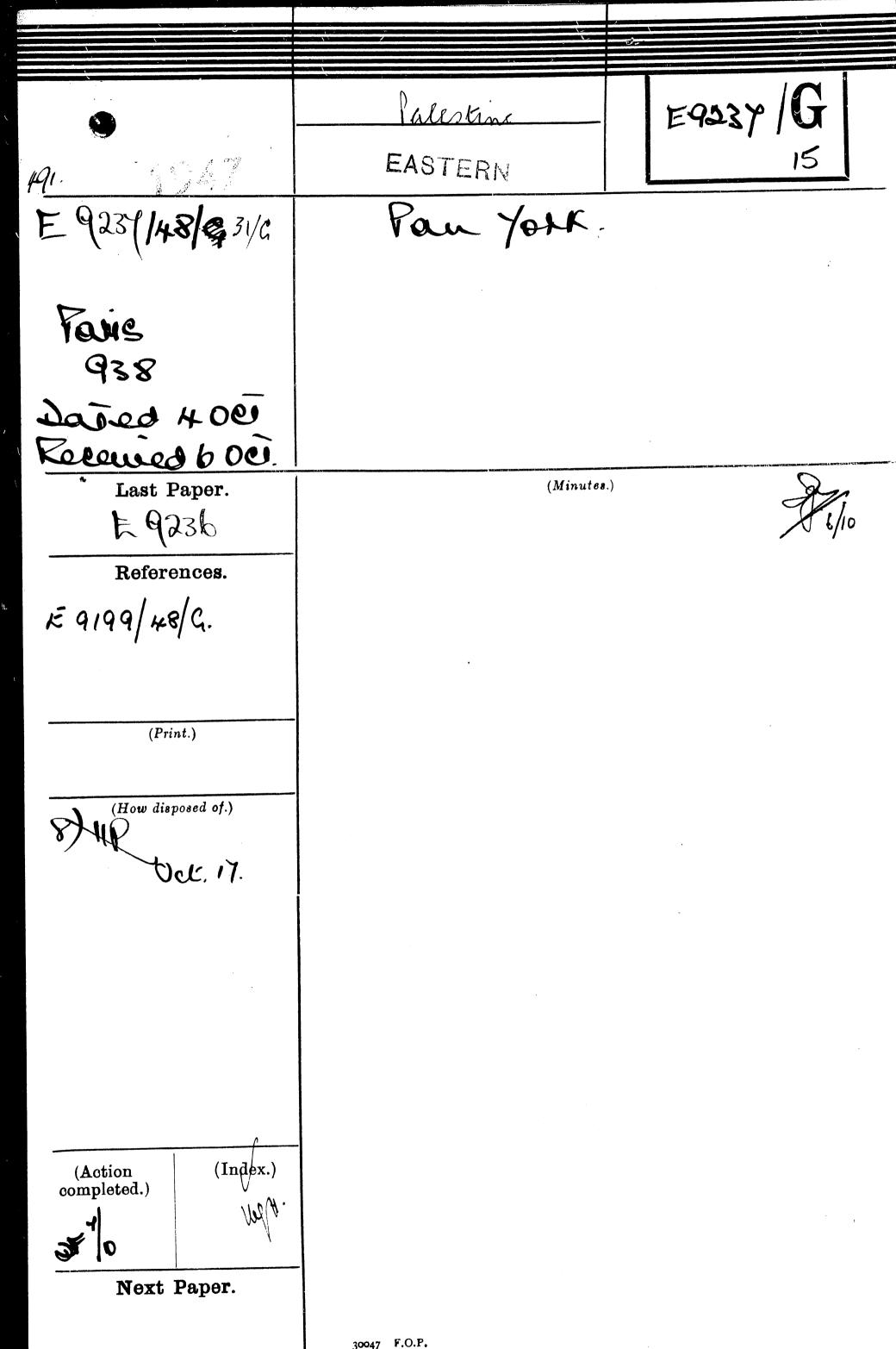
k kk

6 7 037 707

RECEIVED IN G.B

THE PUBLIC

1 / 1



30047 F.O.P.

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP.

CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Ashley Clarke. No. 958.

D. 4.58 p.m. 4th October 1947.

4th October 1947.

R. 7.50 p.m. 4th October 1947.

Repeated to: Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

IMPORTANT.

Foreign Office please pass Important to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean,

Secret.

×9199

Marseilles telegrams Nos. 165 and 166.

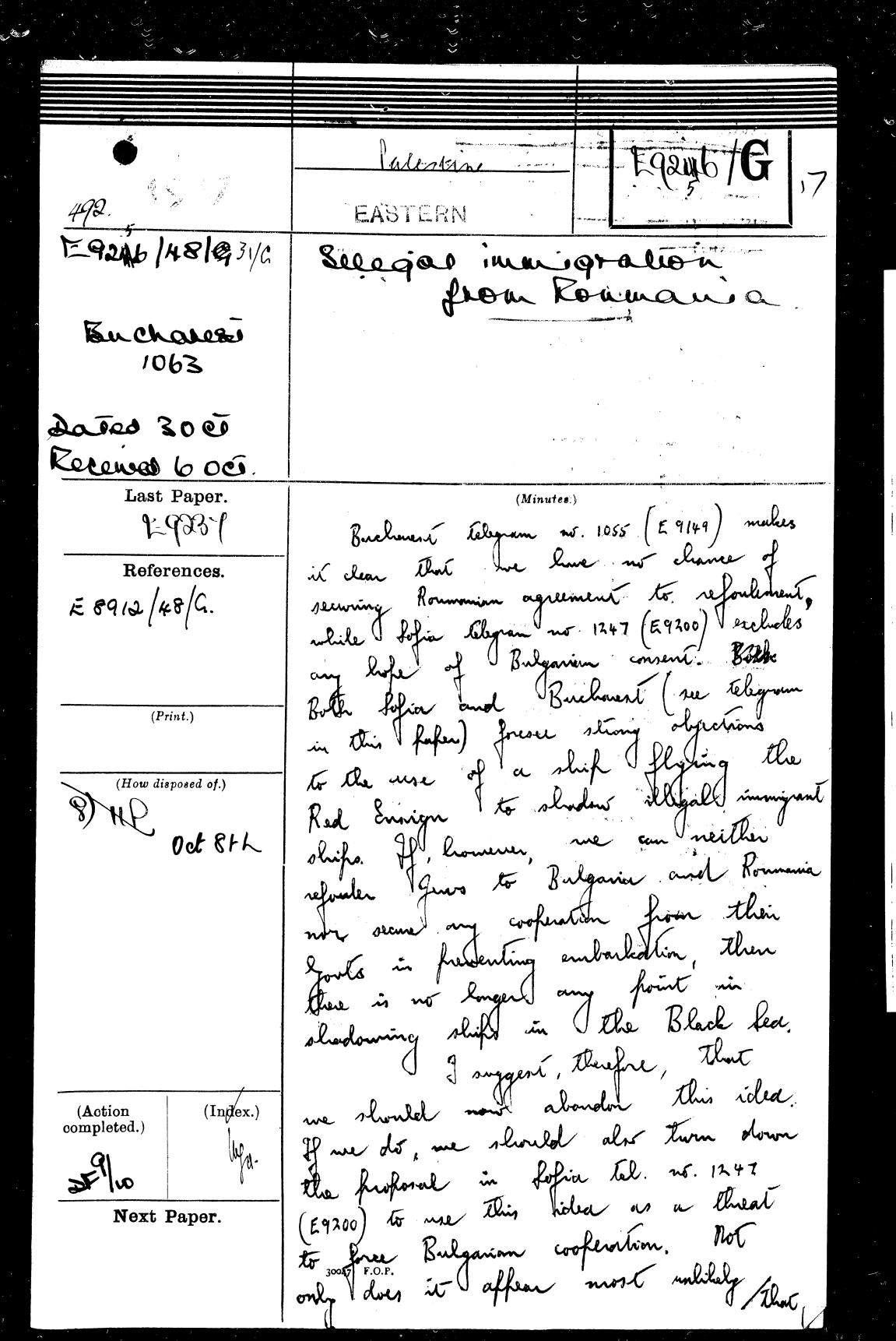
S.S. Pan York.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs have arranged for all French authorities in North Africa to keep a look out for this vessel.

[Copies sent to War Registry Admiralty for repetition to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.]

W:W:W:W:W

1 2 3 4 5 6 Reference CONTRIGHT OF THE POSCIC RECORD OFFICE, COMPONE



that the threat would succeed, but it would be a bluff two easily called. There I sans c. in c. Medis I alegram 041346 in which he suggests that a yacht shuld be used. I'l 7lo use of Jache miglet verene some of the objections Haired by the Buchment Stelegram () in This fafer! On the other hand, it would still not seem to be worth while, since we wild do little or willing with the information when we got it. as the administry are now involved, it might be I bent to discuss this question deither with the Working Party on the bommittee before reflyings There telegrams. This might also be a milible que occasion for considering whether stratowing suspect (J.E. CABLE) lagree. I really don't think any . I tom is on the table. Southern Dept. Should see and we sha then clear this at the next withing party. Southern Dept. first

			1	
		E	2	
		- 1	· Vs	
			-	
			5	
l	:	~ 	6	
			20	8
			Reference	
			\	
	.	371/		COT INTO THE COURT OF THE COURT
		51830	\	TICE, COROON

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

SOFIA

Mr. Helman Ne. 1063

D. 9.31 a.m. 4th October 1947

3rd October 1947 R. 3.15 p.m. 4th October 1947

Repeated to Mescew Angera

Jerusalem

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta Commonder-in-Chief M.E.L.F.

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 1019. Illegal immigration.

Ordinary visit by vessel flying red ensign to a Roumanian port from a foreign destination for the purpose ef fuelling er previsiens weuld be unebjectienable, but it might preve difficult to explain to the Roumanian Government the reason for increasingly prelenged presence in port unless it were engaged in some form of trade. Greatest difficulty however would be encountered from the Russians who would naturally be extremely suspicious of such a ship plying between Reumanian and Bulgarian perts through which Russians move troops and military supplies. Incidents er attempts at detention of ship or crew cannot be excluded.

3. On the other hand it should not prove impossible for us to follow as in the past the movements of suspected ships in Reumanian waters whilst embarkation of emigrants can hardly take place without it being seen.

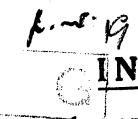
Fereign Office repeat to Angera, Jerusalem, Commanderin-Chief Mediterranean Malta, and Commander-in-Chief M.R.L.F. as my telegrams Nes. 30,50, 5 and unnumbered respectively.

[Repeated to Angora-Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for transmission to Jerusalem. Copies sent to War Registry Admiralty for transmission to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta and copies to Duty Signal Officer War Office for transmission to Commander-In-Chief M.E.L.F.]

6C6

THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE,

RESTRICTED



WARNING.—This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Date 6.10.47.

Services. From War Registry.

Subject: C. in C. Med. (Afloat) 041346 (Top Secret distribution).

A.M. 021530 quoted is a repetition of Foreign Office Confidential message to Bucharest (1019) and Solia (1329) which has now been circulated in the Admiralty.

A.M. 261230 also quoted is presumably intended to be A.M. 262130 to C. in C. Med. which was a repetition of S.of S. Colonies message No.2276 to Palestine (O.A.G.), circulated in the Admiralty under T.O.O. 261530 September, (Topsecret distribution).

war Reg.

1st.Lord. 1st.S.L.(3) V.C.M.S. A.C.H.S. Naval Secretary Secretary U.S.S. 0.D.(8) D.C.(2) $\bar{\mathbf{w}} \cdot (8)$ D.N.I.(5) D.of P.(2) D.of P. (9) C.N. I. (2)

54/EK

THE PUBLIC

TOP SECRET

IN

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

0413464/October

From C. in C. Med. Afloat

Date 4.10,47. Received 2255

OINCEX

Addressed Admiralty, Info. C. in C. Med. Malta.

IMPORTANT.

Subject shadowing suspect ships in Black Sea. A.M. 021530 October and 261230 September refer. Before any decision is made to employ ships flying the Red Ensign on this duty, as suggested in F.O. Telegram Number 1019 (A.M. 261230 September), it seems that following points must be clearly defined.

- (A) Authority who is to have operational control of such ships, and will give them detailed orders.
- (B) Arrangements for their communications with operational authority.
- (0) How such ships are to be furnished with secret intelligence necessary to the effective performance of their duty.
- 2. To obtain definite evidence of embarkation it will be necessary that such ships should at least be present in port with suspect ship when loading takes place. Unless Government concerned is so sympathetic with our cause that they will allow surveillance within their own ports, it would appear necessary for purpose of our ships presence to be disguised by providing her with commercial cover.
- 3. For this reason, it is suggested that a yacht type vessel is more suitable than any other, because a yacht's visits require no explanation.

4. Furthermore, if a Haifa corvette is used, a specially selected crew would seem desirable, or at any rate the present crew, which is locally entered will need re-inforcement at least in W/T personnel.

041346A

Advance copies sent R. C. , D. C.

let Lord. 1st Sea Lord. (3) V.C.N.S. A.C.N.S. N.A. 2nd S.L. Secretary. U.S.S. D.O.D. (4) D.N.I. (4) D. of P. (2) D. of P. (2) Head of M. (4) C.N.I.

17

This document must be paraphrased if the communication of its contents to any person outside Government Service is authorised.

Cypher

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S. COLONIES.

D. 3rd October, 1947. R. 3rd " 01.00 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1847 Top Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to British Representative Moscow
(S. of S. please pass as my No. 1332).

" to Sofia No. 1333.

" Bucharest No. 1334.

" Ankara No. 9.

" Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean No.1336

" Middle East Land
Forces No. 1337.

" P.S.T.O., Mediterranean (Commander-in-Chief, M.E.L.F., please pass as my No. 1335).

Your telegram No. 2276.

Illegal Immigration.

paragraph 5, Service Authorities and P.S.T.O. agree that a corvette would be unsuitable (repeat unsuitable) for any shadowing duties by day or night being unfitted for such duties (corrupt group ?in general) and also without trained personnel necessary.

Your paragraph 6. If transports were loaded

with/

RECORD OFFICE, LON DON

2.

250

with full complement of immigrants they could not, in view of food and water difficulties, wait for more than 48 (repeat 48) hours at entrance to the Straits.

of probable eventualities it is considered unlikely that question of being able to spare a corvette for escert duty through the Dardanelles will arise. Ends.

(Copies sent to Foreign Office for onward transmission)

Istributed to:-

R. 243
Secretary of State
Sir T. Lloyd
Mr. I. Thomas
Sir S. Caine
Sir C. Jeffries
Mr. Holding
Mr. Martin
Foreign Office
Admiralty
War Office
(M.O.4.)
Ministry of Transport
Cabinet Offices
M.I. 5.

Mr. Trafford Smith Mr. Gutch Mr. Mathieson Mr. Higham Mr. Galaworthy Mr. Fitzgerald

Mr. Beith.
Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.
Captain Meunsell.
Brigedier Dove.
Lt.Col. M.M. Charteris.
Mr. Rennie.
Mr. Graham.
Commander Evershed.
Mr. T.A. Robertson.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1 2 3 4 5 6 Reference: COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1 1 2 3 4 5 6 Reference: COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1 2 3 4 5 6 Reference: COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1 2 3 4 5 6 Reference: COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1 2 3 4 5 6 Reference: COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1 3 4 5 6 Reference: COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

	Paleskine 29333 G
	EASTERN 22
493 E9333 /48/9 31/G	Paducah
Kuchaiss	
203	
Daries 800.	
Last Paper	(Minutes)
E9246	10/10
References References.	
(Print)	
(How disposed of)	
- -	
(Action completed) (Index)	
Next Paper	

(349/100/47) HIS Majesty's Minister at Bucharest ents his compliments to H.M.P.S. of S. for F.A. and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents. British ... Lagation ... Bucharest. 30th September 194. 7 Reference to previous correspondence: Bucharest despatch No. 213 of 17th September. Description of Enclosure: Name and Date. Subject. Copy of Note Verbale No. Jewish illegal immigration. 98.324 of 26th September. 1947.

_		
-		
-		
_	-~	
<u>***</u>		
	w	
—		
-		
-	#	
- 2	- 5	
70	Reference	COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFF
371/5	\	RECORD OFFICE,
830	·	FICE, LONDON
1		

Ministere Royal des Affaires Etrangeres,

Bucarest.

No. 98.324.

26th September, 1947.

NOTE VERBALE

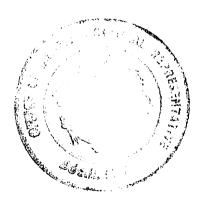
The Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the British Legation and with reference to Notes Verbales No. 99, 101, 104 and 112 of August 19th, 21st, 22nd and September 17th respectively, has the honour to inform the Legation as follows:

The Roumanian authorities are not aware of the presence in Roumanian territorial waters of a vessel named "Paducah", or any other vessels intending to embark illegal Jewish emigrants.

The same authorities are not informed that an illegal traffic is being organised on the Roumanian territory.

To The British Legation,

Bucharest.



RECORD

OFFICE,

HOU HO

25

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group.	Fo
Class.	37/
D : 4	61830

Following document(s) retained in the

Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

of the Public Records Act, 1958

E9379/48/31

	Palestine	E9416 /G
<u>uas</u>	EASTERN	26
7=9416 48 31/G	Joursh ille	gas i muni pration
Ruchassa	•	
226		
Leewed 400.		
Last Paper	(M	inutes)
E9349		13/10
E8639 48 C		
(Print) (How disposed of)		
(110th disposed sy)		
	•	
(Action completed) (Index)		
Next Paper		

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

34092

No. 226 (349/112/47) 27 HIS Majesty's Minister Bucharest Gelsi94701 F.A. ents his compliments to H.M. plo and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents. British...Legation, Bucharest. 1st October Reference to previous correspondence: Foreign Office telegram No. 1003. Description of Enclosure. Name and Date. Subject. Note Verbale to Ministry of Jewish illegal immigration. Foreign Affairs dated 1st October, 1947.

3479A 30582-1 (8)

THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE,

British Legation,

Bucharest .

He. 118 (349/112/47)

lat October, 1947.

NOTE TEMBALE

The British Legation at Bucharest presents its compliments to the Roumanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with reference to its Motes Verbales Mos. 104 and 112, has the honour to inform the Ministry that two ships, the "Pan Orescent" and "Pan Tork", both flying the Panamanian flag, are reported to be about to enter the Black Sea to embark parties of illegal Jewish immigrants bound for Palestine.

- 2. The British Legation requests the Roumanian Government to take all necessary presentions to prevent the embarkation on these ships in Roumanian waters of Jewish emigrants who are not provided with velid entry views into Palestine granted by a competent British authority.
- 5. Should either of these vessels enter a Roumanian port to obtain fuel, the British Legation requests that bunkers should be refused in view of the illicit trade in which these vessels are allegedly engaged.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Bucharest.



PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Following document(s) retained in the

Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

of the Public Records Act, 1958

E9421/48 31

...

	FASTERN E944Y /G BASTERN BASTERN 30
How shapion	Resolution regarding Fresident marfield to Germany
Rosewedis od. Last Paper	(Minutas)
E944b	(Minutes)
References	
(Print)	
(How disposed of)	
(Action completed) (Index)	
Next Paper	

h Dennys, Thorely after 1. 30 pm on tuntay 29" September three men of feworch appearance escotted by an suspector and other police officers arrives at The Loveryn Office. I met them and the Inspector a better to the Foreign Scenetary. I received the letter (herewith) and said, I will see that the letter is duly delivered to think human who handed it to me replied, Thank you. The shote party then left The building by way of Downing Av. Askers Sin. Souvity & Bear

said These men with to present

THE



JEWISH

President: S. Hockman, Esq.

Vice-Presidents: J. Harris, Esq. H. Clayton, Esq.

Hon. Vice-Presidents: A. Isaacs, Esq. J. White, V.C. T. W. Gould, V.C.

Chairman: Major Samuel Weiser

Vice-Chairman:

J. Lakin, Esq.

Sir,

Chief Secretary and Press Officer: C. Ben-Aron, Esq.

R. Lever, Esq. Joint Hon. Treasurers: Mrs. F. Kaye

Hon. Secretary:

A. Morris, Esq. Public Relations Officer:

Hon. Auditor: G. J. Hockman, Esq., F.C.A.

Lieut. D. G. de Lange, R.N.V.R.

National Council Members: L. Barak, Esq. A. Burnett, Esq. L. Charkham, Esq. S. Cooper, Esq. A. Davis, Esq. Mrs. S. Edwards S. Edwards, Esq. M. Field, Esq. B. Garfinkle, Esq. J. P. Grossman, Esq. M. Grossman, Esq. Mrs. M. Grossman Capt. B. Harman I. Hockman, Esq. M. Katz, Esq. M. Kaye, Esq. G. Morris, Esq. L. Morris, Esq. M. Moser, Esq. Mrs. H. Nestel H. Nestel, Esq. M, Page, Esq. S. Pierce, Esq. Lee Royce, Esq. (U.S.A.) M. Shore, Esq.

Mrs. S. Wieser

The Land of Israel for the People of Israel The People of Israel for the Land of Israel

Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin M.P.

Foreign Office,

London, S.W.1.

All communications to: The Secretary, THE JEWISH LEGION, 21, HYDE PARK STREET,

LONDON, W.2

Tel.: PADdington 4050

28th September, 1947.

We beg to submit for your urgent consideration the following resolution passed by a Mass Rally in Hyde Park, held at the occassion of a Protest March organised by our Organisation on this day of Sunday, 28th September, 1947, in protestation against the inhuman return of our Jewish brethren to Germany. At the same time we beg to submit to you the texts of the cables received from America, South Africa and Palestine supporting our protestations.

"THIS MASS DEMONSTARTION IN HYDE PARK, LONDON, ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER THE TWENTYEIGHTH, 1947, PROTESTS IN THE NAME OF ONE AND A HALF MILLION JEWISH EX-SERVICEMEN AND OF ALL FREEDOM LOVING PEOPLE AGAINST TH THE ACTION OF H.M. GOVERNMENT IN DIRECTING THE PASSENGERS OF THE "EXODUS 1947" FROM PALESTINIAN WATERS TO HAMBURG AND IN INTERNING THE 4500 REFUGEES UNDER DURESS IN THE VERY CAMPS IN WHICH THEIR BROTHERS HAD DIED IN THEIR MILLIONS AND FROM WHICH SOME OF THEM HAD SO RECENTLY ESCAPED. IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY THIS DEMONSTRATION CALLS UPON H.M. GOVERNMENT TO ORDER THE IMMEDIATE RE-EMBARCATION OF THESE REFUGEES AND THEIR SPEEDY RETURN TO FALESTINE, THEIR PROMISED LAND AND RIGHTFUL COUNTRY."

We sincerely urge you to give your urgent and favourable consideration to the resolution and the supporting cables.

Respectfully Yours

(Major Samuel Weiser)

9 THE PUBLIC

RECORD OFFICE, LON DON

္တာ

JEWISH



LEGION

President: S. Hockman, Esq.

Vice-Presidents:

J. Harris, Esq.

H. Clayton, Esq.

Hon. Vice-Presidents: A. Isaacs, Esq.

J. White, V.C.

T. W. Gould, V.C.

Chairman: Major Samuel Weiser

Vice-Chairman: J. Lakin, Esq.

Chief Secretary and Press Officer: C. Ben-Aron, Esq.

Hon. Secretary: R. Lever, Esq.

Joint Hon. Treasurers:

Mrs. F. Kaye A. Morris, Esq.

Public Relations Officer Lieut. D. G. de Lange, R.N.V.R.

Hon. Auditor: G. J. Hockman, Esq., F.C.A.

National Council Members: L. Barak, Esq. A. Burnett, Esq. L. Charkham, Esq. S. Cooper, Esq. A. Davis, Esq. Mrs. S. Edwards S. Edwards, Esq. M. Field, Esq. B. Garfinkle, Esq. J. P. Grossman, Esq. M. Grossman, Esq. Mrs. M. Grossman

Capt. B. Harman I. Hockman, Esa.

M. Katz, Esq.

M. Kaye, Esq. G. Morris, Esa.

L. Morris, Esq. M. Moser. Esq.

P. Myers, Esq.

Mrs. H. Nestel H. Nestel, Esq.

M, Page, Esq.

S. Pierce, Esq.

Lee Royce, Esq. (U.S.A.)

M. Shore, Esq. Mrs. S. Wieser

The Land of Israel for the People of Israel The People of Israel for the Land of Israel All communications to:

The Secretary, THE JEWISH LEGION,

21, HYDE PARK STREET,

LONDON, W.2

Tel.: PADdington 4050

28th September, 1947.

Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin M.P. Foreign Office,

London, S.W.1.

Protest March:

Sir,

Herewith we respectfully submit the texts of the cables received by our Organisation in support of our

United States of America:

"WITH EACH HEBREW SHIP ILLEGALLY SEIZED BY ROYAL NAVY THE MAGNA CHARTA SINKS DEEPER INTO HAIFA HARBOUR. ONLY ISSUE IS WILL ENGLAND SET HERSELF AGAINST WORLD CONSCIENCE AND REMAIN LAST OBSTACLE IN 2000 YEAR STRUGGLE FOR HEBREW LIBERATION. HEBREW VICTORY INEVITABLE BUT BRITAIN'S HONOUR AT STAKE. ALL AMERICA HOPES THAT HYSTERIA OF BRITAIN'S LEADERS AND MISREPRESENTATION OF PRESS WILL NCT CAUSE PEOPLE OF ENGLAND TO ABANDON COMMON SENSE AND GALLANT TRADITIONS. PEOPLE OF ENGLAND CAN BE ABSOLVED OF GUILT IN EXODUS ABOMINATION ONLY IF THEY DEMONSTRATE THAT COLONIAL OFFICE POLICY IS ENEMY OF DECENT ENGLAND AND AFFRONT TO FREE MAN EVERYWHERE -SENATOR GUY M. GILLETEE; ANDREW L. SOMERS M.C. LOUIS BROMFIELD"

South Africa:

"SOUTH AFRICAN EXSERVICE LEAGUE JOIN WITH YOU LEGION PROTESTING AGAINST THE RETURN EXODUS JEWS TO GERMANY CONSIDER TREATMENT BARBARIC AND UNWORTHY GREAT DEFENDER OF FREEDOMS. URGE BRITAIN PERMITS EXODUS JEWS RETURN TO PALESTINE OUR NATIONAL HOME. SUPPORT."

Palestine:

YOURS TWENTYSECOND APPROVE YOUR EFFORTS STRENGTHEN EXODUS JEWS PLEA - BENZEVIE PRESIDENT VAAD LEUMI."

Respectfully Yours, ajor Samuel/Weise

PUBL I C

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group.	Fo
Class .	37/
Diago	61830

Following document(s)*

retained in the Department of origin*

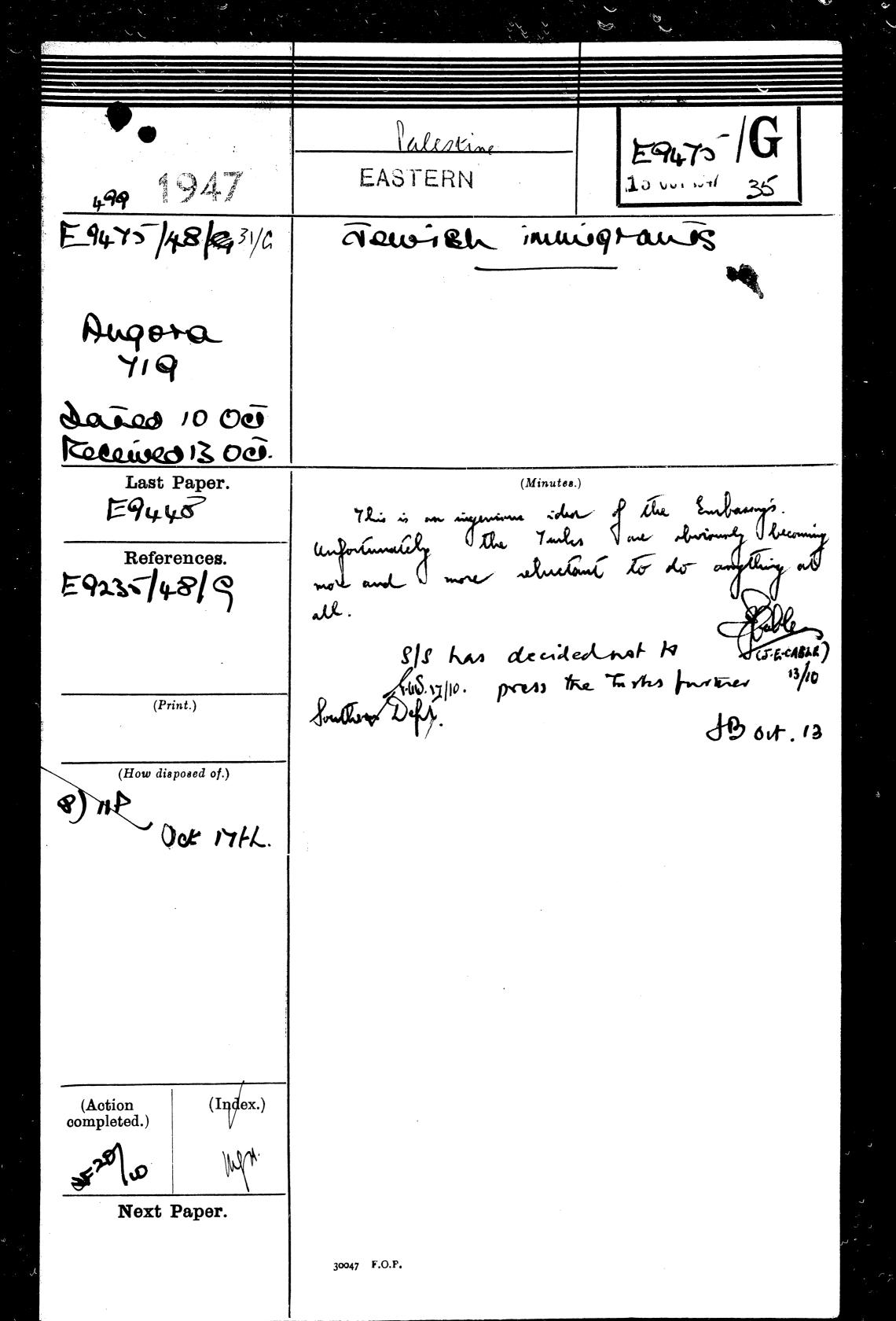
transferred to PRO Safe Room*

E9448/48/31

	1998
and closed	until

*delete as necessary

	1 2 3 4 5 6 Reference	
TC 371/61830		



36

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.]

CYPHER/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM ANGORA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir D. Kelly. No. 719.

D: 3.16 p.m. 10th October, 1947.

10th October, 1947.

R: 7.20 p.m. 10th October, 1947.

Repeated to: Sofia, Bucharest, Jerusalem, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

CONFIDENTIAL

LIGHT

My telegram No. 701: Jewish immigrants.

As the only legal grounds for delaying the ships in transit through the Straits seems to be the non payment of dues, Counsel asked Secretary General, on October 8th, whether action could be taken to prevent Turkish firms from acting as agents for suspected ships and paying their dues. It was represented that Turkish Government could hardly wish their nationals to get mixed up in Jewish terrorist organisations.

2. Secretary General replied there would be no difficulty about preventing Turkish agents from acting but said that it would be useless as the ships captains would undoubtedly carry with them the means of paying necessary dues and the only result would be awkward questions.

Foreign Office please repeat to Bucharest and Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean as my telegrams Nes. 15 and 4 respectively.

[Repeated to Bucharest. Copies sent to War Registry, Admiralty for repetition to Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.]

@@@

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group	Fo	
Class	37/	• •
Piece	61830	

Following document(s)*

retained in the Department of origin*

transferred to PRO Safe Room*

E9546/48/31

				_		_	'		
_				16	10	· X			
and	closed	until		/ /	_/	C			
	VIODUU	until.	••••	• • • • •	• • • •	• • • •		• •	

*delete as necessary

000

A standing of the standard of		
501 E9547 148 19	l'alestine EASTERN Suuigation	E9547/G 38 13.4 DOT 1947 No Palessine
Mr Trafford Builtr Lothkeith 2002 13001.	Attaches Pales	Time Q1 1908 2 2428.
Last Paper	(M	(inutes)
E9546	See E95	46 106 100
References		46 48 CT
(Print)		Ab out. My
(How disposed of)		•
(Action completed) (Index)		
DF 20 10		
Next Paper		



TOP SECRET

Colonial Office, Church House, Great Smith Street,

Great Smith Stre London, S.W.

October 13, 19

1947 14 Oct 1947

Your Reference

Der Beith.

I enclose copy of our telegram No. 2428 to the High Commissioner for Palestine repeated to New York, and of the reply which came in yesterday. I believe you saw the outward telegram in draft form and agreed it with Higham. It finally went off as a personal telegram from me as Mr Rees-Williams decided that the policy issues at stake must be left open until the meeting of Ministers on the IIP paper dealing with the same problem has taken place.

You will see that the High Commissioner still wishes to make a move at UNO if possible, notwithstanding the pessimistic views expressed in paragraph two of the outward telegram. His message is of course addressed primarily to the Secretary of State, New York, and I take it that the Delegation there will do what they can and send a suitable reply. I thought you ought to know of this correspondence, however, in case you wish to do anything at this end, or the matter is raised with the Foreign Office by the Delegation. So far as the Colonial Office is concerned, we would of course support any move which offered any prospect of alleviating the present extremely serious situation as regards illegal immigration.

/Turning

Turning now to the High Commissioner's views on the expedients referred to in the outward telegram, it seems to me that his first paragraph may be based on the assumption, derived from recent Cyprus telegrams, that accommodation will not be ready in Cyprus for more than about half the expected 16,000 if they arrive during the Working on this assumption, next few weeks. the High Commissioner proposes the rather drastic step of letting in 16,000 straight away in one lump, his chief consideration being apparently that that would serve the Jews right. From the Colonial Office point of view, I doubt very much whether we can favour this as sudden cessation of the Cyprus quota might provoke serious trouble there, even though Cyprus would be spared the arrival of the 16,000. What is more important, I cannot think that a sudden decision to letting in a flood of 16,000 some time during the next few weeks would appear to the world in general, and in particular to the Arabs, as anything but a capitulation in favour of the Jews, notwithstanding any announcement that might be made as regards mortgaging of quotas for the eleven odd months which would be necessary.

The whole situation, as usual, bristles with difficulty. For my part, I think it can only be handled on the original basis proposed, i.e., to take this 16,000 from the two immediately threatening ships to Cyprus (if necessary straining every nerve and using every possible expedient to fit them into available accommodation there) and then to use the quota-mortgaging expedient, if we must, only in respect of subsequent arrivals, which we must hope will not amount to a total of more than, say, 3 or 4 months' quota at the

/outside.

con. page one.

Cour Reference

In any case, we of course hope against hope that by the time that situation arose we should know more clearly where we are as a result of UNO and be in a position to take more profitable decisions.

Whilst dictating the above I have just heard that Mr Bevin is to discuss the whole question at 5.00 o'clock on Wednesday 15th. If you have any views, or wish to discuss in any way before then, Higham and I would be glad to hear from you.

Your truck

(Trafford Smith)

As regards accommodation in Cyprus, we P.S. have of course already asked them to do everything The Wednesday meeting gives us an excuse to send a further indication of the extreme urgency of the revision of the remaining accommodation. We shall try to get an answer giving the latest position before the meeting.

INWARD TELEGRAM

0

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cumningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 12th October, 1947. R. 12th "23.00 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1908 Top Secret.

Reference No. 2428 from the Colonial Office following to United Kingdom Delegation.

Personal for the Secretary of State and to the Colonial Office from Cunningham.

I thoroughly dislike both elternatives mentioned in paragraph 3 of your telegram which, as you say, admits. defeat, but if one has to be adopted, I should much prefer (b) which, I believe, would cause the Jews grave emberrasement. They are in no position to accept and absorb 16,000 immigrants extiving at approximately the same time. It would mean the stoppage of all other quotes which would not suit Cyprus, but decision as to the future of the Jews now in Cyprus rests with the United Nations.

2. It should not be overlooked that cost of deportation and maintenance in Cyprus of these 16,000 may ultimately fall on the British texpayer, since liability already placed on Palestine Government in respect of illegal immigration, together with other commitments, will exceed our assets, should we withdraw. It is difficult to see may either British or Arab texpayor should be called to meet expenditure in this connection.

ond) end follow one of the courses you suggest, I would ask again whether, to evoid obvious disadventages, it could not be arranged that United Nations, us a matter of urgency, should

OFFICE, LON DON

43

request us not to use force against any ships which have managed to sail and, at the same time, request Jewish Agency and other nations to prevent such sailings for the present. It could also be stated that any immigrants admitted would be automatically against whatever quote were eventually to be decided upon e.g. the 6,250 monthly recommended by United Nations Special Committee. It will be remembered that I made this point urgently on the day I left England a fortnight ago, when dilemma in which we were likely to be placed was already apparent.

follows. Reply to last sentance of your telegrom

5. I would request that such important policy telegrans, if or a personal basis, be addressed to me.

(Copies to Cypher Section, Popeign Office for transmission to New York)

Distributed to:-

R. 243
Secretary of State
Sir T. Lloyd
Lt.Col. Rees-Williams
Sir S. Caine
Sir C. Jeffries
Wr. Holding
Nr. Martin

Mr. Trefford Smith Mr. Gutch Mr. Methleson Mr. Higham Mr. Galaworthy Mr. Fitzgerald

RECORD OFFICE,

LON DON

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

44

76021/47 Pt.2.

Cypher (0.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S. COLONIES.

Sent 11th October, 1947. 10.30 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No.2428 Top Secret.

Addressed High Commissioner Palestine. Repeated UKDKL New York for Martin.

Following for Gurney from Trafford Smith. Begins.

Personal telegrem No.1848 that future policy regarding illegal immigration should be reconsidered at an early date. Ministers are expected to review problem early next week, but as you will appreciate the question is inextricably bound up with the more general issues of Palestine policy. It is clear from recent telegrams from Sofia and Bucharest that there is little hope of any co-operation from Bulgaria and Roumania which are, at the moment, the chief danger spots, and that we cannot count on any significant delay in the departure of illegal immigrant ships from Black Sea ports as a result of diplomatic pressure. We have virtually abandoned any hope of refoulement to a Black Sea port although there is still a chance that Italy may be more amenable. The Turks claim that they have no legal grounds for preventing or delaying the passage of illegal immigrant ships through the Straits and are unwilling to do anything which would embarrass them in their relations with Russia or which would leave them with large numbers of Jews on their hands.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1 2 3 4 5 6 Reference: 371 3 930

45

76033/47 Pt. 2.

2. The General Assembly have now added to the agenda an item submitted by Egypt, Iraq and Lebanon which reads as follows:

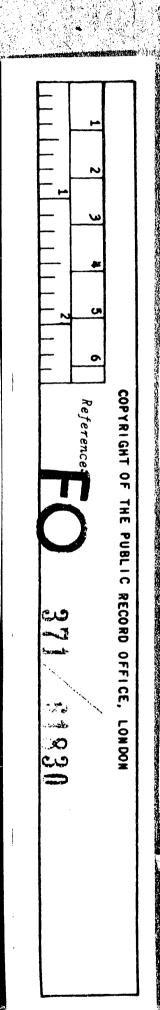
"International co-operation for the prevention of immigration which is likely to disturb friendly relations between nations".

We have not yet heard UKDEL's views on probable developments from this item but the Foreign Office fear there may be little chance of any good emerging from it or of the United Nations accepting any responsibility for preventing illegal immigration in time to meet the present emergency. Here again there is no possibility of any co-operation from Bulgaria and Roumania. It is doubtful, too, whether H.M.G. would be willing to risk trouble with the Arabs by advocating at this moment any increase in the quota.

- 3. If Ministers decide that the fight against illegal immigration must continue, we look like being driven to possible expedients to enable us to weather the storm until the end of 1947; for instance
 - (a) To devote the whole quote of 1,500 a month to Cyprus; should this not suffice.
 - (b) to mortgage the quotas several months in advance.

We realise that this would be tantamount to admitting defeat but we are not able to suggest any other means of averting an immediate crisis. We should be very grateful for your views on these expedients before Ministers meet and for any other suggestions you may have.

4. The prospects of making accommodation elsewhere available in less than 6 months are very poor and in the present economic situation we cannot lightly embark on large scale expenditure of men, money and materials that would be involved. Ministers will also take a decision on this question of accommodation.

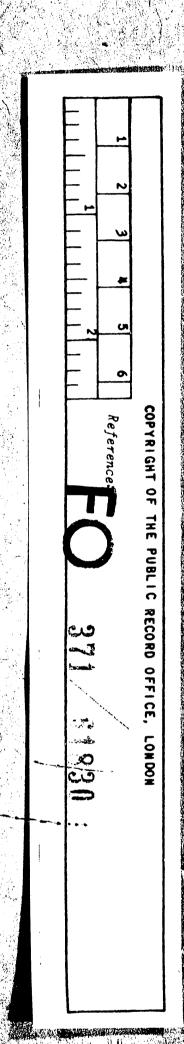


OUTWARD TELEGRAM

46

5. It is understood that the EMPIRE RIVAL left U.K. on 3rd October, RUNNYMEDE PARK on 5th October and that OCEAN VIGOUR will leave on 10th October. We realise that even with all transports on station there will be difficulty in dealing with the simultaneous arrival of PAN YORK and PAN CRESCENT - a possibility which cannot be excluded. I see however that an Army LS.T. has been used for the recent operation and we should be glad to know how long you expect to be able to retain her. (Copies sent to Foreign Office for transmission to New York).

Distributed to:R.243
Secretary of State
Sir T. Lloyd
Lt. Col. Rees-Williams
Sir S. Caine
Sir C. Jeffries
Mr. Holding
Mr. Martin
Mr. Trafford Smith
Mr. Gutch
Mr. Mathieson
Mr. Higham
Mr. Galsworthy
Mr. Fitzgerald



E9550 /G 1947 EASTERN 502 F9050 48/231/C Jewish illegar immigrants Cairo Rois Cairo 45 to Rofia. 2006 केन्छ १३०० Received 14 00 Last Paper. (Minutes.)E9547 References. E9070/48/9 (Print.) (How disposed of.) (Action completed.) (Index.) Next Paper.

30047 F.O.P.

green

118

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL Ne.1.

FROM CAIRO TO SOFIA

Mr. Bewker. D. 9.20 a.m. 15th October, 1947.

R. 10, 51 a.m. 15th October, 1947.

Repeated to: Fereign Office, No. 2006:

CONTRIDENTIAL.

Your telegram No. 1257 to Fereign Office. Jewish illegal immigrants.

I am informed by an efficial of Ministry of Interior that Egyptian visas have not been authorized for any [grp. undec. ? illegal] Jews and are not likely to be authorized.

Fereign Office please pass to Sefia as my telegram No. 45.

RECEIVED IN C.B.

1 4 OCT 1947

SENT TO DEPT.

[Repeated to Sefia].

371/51830

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC

RECORD

OFFICE,

सत

FROM SOFIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Sterndale Bennett. D. 10.54.a.m. September 30th, No. 1237. September 30th, 1947. R. 3.55.p.m. September 30th, 1947.

Repeated to Angora.

Jerusalen.
Alexandria.
Bucharest.
Belgrade.
B.M.E.O. Cairo.
C-in-C.Mediterranean.
Rone)
Trieste) Saying.

66666

IMMEDIATE.

Confidential.

Your telegram No. 1003 to Bucharest.

Jewish illegal innigrants.

I think that there is little doubt that immigrants were allowed to embark at Bourgas (See my telegram No. 1216) on both Paducah and Northland since official of Ministry of Foreign Affairs to-day stated on instructions from his superiors that Bulgarian authorities felt unable to prevent embarkations on either vessel of Jews who had their papers in order (i.e., so he stated, who had valid visas for Persia, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon or Egypt).

- 2. I am accordingly addressing a note to the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in regard to the Pan Crescent and Pan York and an asking for written confirmation of Bulgarian attitude mentioned in paragraph 1 above.
- 3. Meanwhile Bulgarian authorities still profess themselves unable to give any information about the trainleads of Jews from Roumania; I suspect them of "foxing" in this matter and think that they can no longer be counted upon to give even that limited co-operation regarding embarkation which was promised and reported in my telegrams Nos. 1109 and 1161.

4. Please pass to Admiralty. Foreign Office please pass immediate to Jerusalen, Alexandria and Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean as my telegrams 28, 1 and 1 respectively.

[Copies sent to Admiralty].

[Repeated to Alexandria and copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem - to War Registry Admiralty for repetition to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.]

503 E9564/48/9 E.O. Win Mr. Cable	EASTERN Passage Tuons of Francisco de la	F9664/G 14 OCT 1947 Shaws Legas elips.
Daies 0000 Décenies 14000.		
Last Paper E9550	(1)	Minutes) 21/10
References 9829/84/11 10478/84/11 (Print)		
(How disposed of) With Heround Au Sopi. Tel dosposedos		
on E9235/48/9		
(Action completed) Next Paper		
	34092	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

61830

Mr Warner I fear that their draft went in error to the s. of s. without first passing through the proper under-servetarral channels. The tet has not get been despotched. Sir Ortangent skø. see before dogsatch. CARDONNES. Tel despalched.

Tel despalched.

10/10 MONTAGUE BROWNE)

The Turkish Ambassador raised both parints in the attached note in a conversation with Sir Orme Sargent this afternoon.

The Ambassador said that under the Montreux Convention it would be impossible to prevent Jewish Illegal Immigrant ships passing through the Straits. They could only be delayed briefly for examination for infectious disease and could not be held on the grounds of infringement of the Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea. Sir Orme Sargent pointed out the importance that we attached to preventing such # passage and the difficulties that would be caused us, difficulties that would be to the Turks own disadvantage. For instance, the Russians might make a regular practice of encouraging such traffic to embarrass us both. Moreover, the Turks would themselves reap a harvest of illwill in allowing the ships to pass through unhindered.

A.A. Montagne or

(A.A.D. Montague Browne)

James mit 6th Officer 1947.

When war I agreed ust to be here the war to be here. He dangerous CB.

Margin in this to

14 00 1347

Passage through the Straits of Jewish illegal immigrant ships.

Two ships, the "Northlands" and "Paducah", recently reached Palestine waters from Bulgaria with approximately 4,000 Jewish illegal immigrants on board. Two larger ships, the "Pan Crescent" and the "Pan York", are expected to attempt the same voyage in the near future and may be able to carry as many as 8,000 passengers each. Refoulement will be physically impossible during the next three weeks owing to the absence of the three large fitted transports which took the "President Warfield's" Jews to Hamburg and will probably not be possible even after their return, on account of the attitude of the If the "Pan York" Bulgarian and Roumanian Governments. and "Pan Crescent" reach Palestine waters with Jewish illegal immigrants on board, these will have to go to This will fill the Cyprus camps almost to capacity, leaving a perilously small margin for the kerisa dividently before our withdrawal from Palestine.

It is, therefore, more than usually important to prevent these two ships from reaching Palestine. representations to the Bulgarian and Roumanian Governments have produced no effect and the local authorities appear to be helping rather than hindering the embarkation from their ports of Jewish illegal immigrants. Our only hope, therefore, is to persuade the Turkish authorities to prevent the passage through the Straits of these two ships. We have suggested to them that Article 3 of the Montreux Convention should be utilised for this purpose. Article 3 provides that all ships passing through the Straits shall stop at the entrance for a sanitary inspection, whose purpose is to ascertain whether or not any persons on board are suffering from certain infectious diseases. authorities have power to place guards on board in order to prevent any contact with the shore during the ship's passage through the Straits. We are proposing, however, that the Turkish authorities should order the ship into port for the inspection (which is not unreasonable, since a thorough inspection of 8,000 people on a relatively small ship would be a lengthy affair). Once in port, the Turkish authorities could then either detain the ship or turn her back to her starting-point, on the grounds of infringement of the international Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea and that concerning Load Lines, or on any other pretext they could devise.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs is reported to be anxious to help, both in order to please us and in order to avoid offending the Arabs. He has, however, pointed out the flimsiness of the legal pretext whereby the ship would be brought into a Turkish port and the practical risk of a Jewish refusal to turn back their ship, thus leaving the Turks with 8,000 Jews on their hands. Such a risk does undoubtedly exist, though the Turkish suggestion that the Jews would sabotage the ship seems improbable, since this would suit us, but not the Turks, admirably. The legal basis for the action we are asking the Turks to take is undoubtedly very weak and our request can only be justified by the gravity of the situation and the importance of preventing the passage of these ships.

Marian 6/x

6th October, 1947.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group	Fo
Class	37/
D'a a l	61830

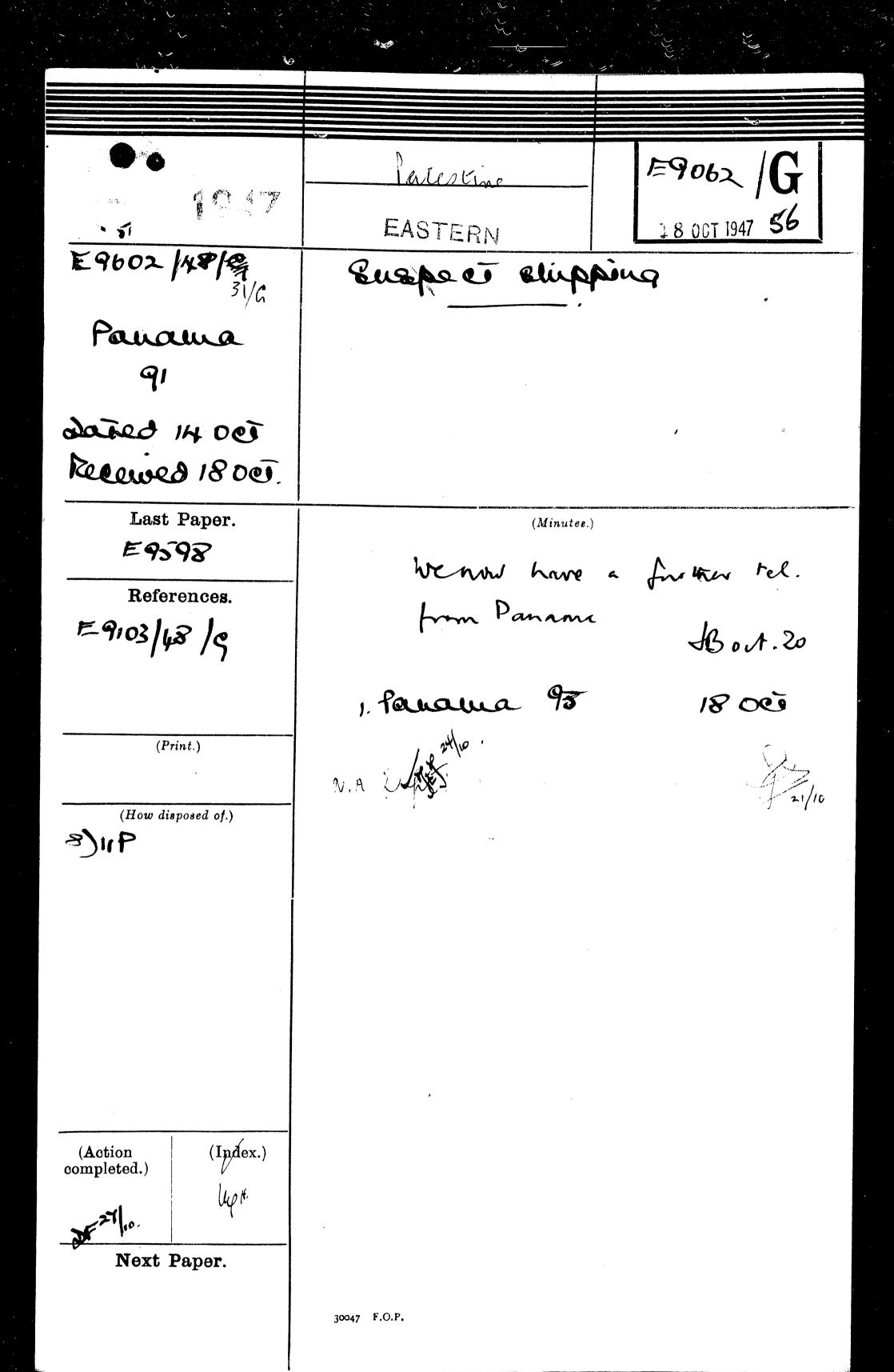
Following document(s) retained in the

Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

of the Public Records Act, 1958

E9598/48/31

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



CYPHER/OTP

FILES

FROM PANAMA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Greenway. No. 901.

D: 8.30 p.m. 11 th October, 1947.

14th October, 1947.

R: 3.05 a.m. 14th October, 1947.

IMMEDIATE

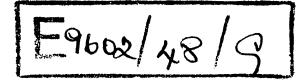
YOUR TELEGRAM 106 SUSPECT [? reference omitted].

I am advised unofficially by the filest pf Foreign Affairs that "proof" so far advanced by His Majesty's Government is considered by their legal authorities to be insufficient but that a memorandum has been proposed [sic] for the President who will examine the matter with his advisers. I am not sanguine.

@@@



RECORD OFFICE,



18 OCT 1947 AMENDMENT SLIP

FILES. (Eastern, American)

Telegram Ne. 901 of 14th October from Panama to

Fereign Office should be telegram No. 91.

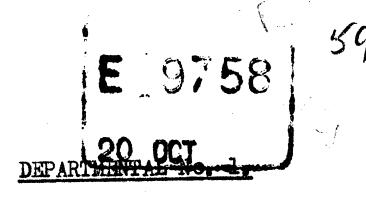
Reference should read: "Your telegram No. 106: suspect shipping."

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

17th October 1947

666

58



Code R

FROM PANAMA TO FORKIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Greenway.

D. 12.10 p.m. 18th October, 1947.

No. 93.

18th October, 1947. R. 6.45 p.m. 18th October, 1947.

My telegram No. 91.

Suspect shipping.

Though I have not yet received a reply from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, local press to-day published announcement said to be official, that Panamanian Government will refuse to cancel registration of ships without complete proof of illegal activities. This leaves little hope that the reply will be satisfactory.



(Action completed)

Yollo

Next Paper

39538

INWARD TELEGRAM

FROM LUBBECKE TO KIEL AND HANNOVER

UG 11663

CONFIDENTIAL

2th October 1947

IMMEDIATE

E 9626

Repeated Foreign Office (German Section)

Berlin ...

Bad Oeynhausen (Q MOV)

16 OCT

D. 4.15 pm 12th October 1947

R. 2.45 pm 13th October 1947.

Operation Oasis.

Reference CCG 11624 of 9th October and CCG 11644 t 10th October.

This is Executive Order for move and final commodation refugees and also summarises information ven in/A/Q signals.

Division of responsibility.

- Responsibility for initiating move lies with Steinreg.

 Ining of your approach to camp leaders, to enlist their

 operation will be arranged in conjunction with Hanreg.

 ease report in due course whether reaction of leaders

 favourable or otherwise. Probable that camp leaders

 ill request facilities for recce of new accm. This is

 corder after rpt after evacuation of present D.P. occupant

 engwarden and therefore not likely to be much before

 oth October. Responsibility for call forward of, advance

 r recce party lies with Hanreg.
- B) Responsibility for carrying out move lies mutually the HQ Steinreg and HQ Hanreg.
- 3) All rail move will be co-ordinated by PW and DP Div.

Accommodation.

) Refugees will be accommodated as follows:

/(A)(i).....

- Approx 2200 barracks at Emden. (i)
- Balance in Sengwarden DP Camp(north of Wilhelmshaven (ii)
- (B) Hanreg will arrange for:

Maye out of pr sent DP occupants by 20th October

(it) Inden barracks and Sengwarden Camp both to be ready to receive incoming refugees by 20th 06tober 1947.

- 4. Accommodation stores etc.
- Special measures will be taken to ensure that no damage to Sengwarden Camp is done by outgoing DPs, with particular reference to unauthorised removal of fixtures and fittings.
- (B) BJS present accommodation stores Sengwarden Camp is more than sufficient for present DP occupants, only pro rata quota of these stores will be removed, to correspond with strength of DPs evacuated.
- (C) Provision of any further accm. stores for Emden and Sengwarden will be arranged mutually by HQs Steinreg and Hanreg from accm. stores on charge to PW and DP Div. Lemgo.
- (D) Camp teams for Emden and Sengwarden will be provided by PW and DP Branch Hanreg who should apply, if necessary, to PW and DP Branch LEMGO for assistance.
- 5. General.
- (A) Present DP occupants Songwarden Camp will not rpt not be informed of identity of incoming refugees, (see 4 (A) above).
- (B) Refugees will not rpt not be informed of names or locations of new accommodation until this is sanctioned by Hanreg, i.e. until DP s ovacuated from Sengwarden.
- (C) Medical Plan follows soonest.

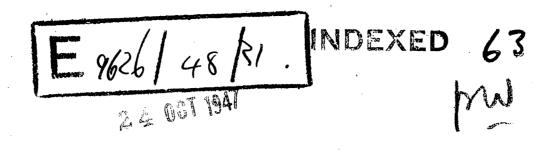
Action.

Mr J H Moore

Distribution.

Oasis.

G/3171334 JV



CYPHER (Paraphrasing unnecessary)

INWARD TELEGRAM

CCG 11813

CONFIDENTIAL

21st October 1947.

IMPORTANT

Repeated: Berlin.

TIME OTT 1-TIME

Kiel. Hannover.

R.O.45 am 22nd October 1947.

D.6.35 pm 21st October 1947.

Operation OASIS

Sitrep No.17 as at 18.00 hrs 21st October 1947.

Reference our executive order for move to final accommodation (CCG 11663 of 12th October 1947) para 2, an approach to Camp Leaders was made at 14.30 hours 20th October 1947, this was followed up by a public announcement to refugees in both Camps.

2. Following is text of reply received p.m. 20th October from Camp Leaders.-

"Nothing will deter us from going to Palestine. Which jail we go to (a reference to Emden and Sengwarden) is up to you (the British). We did not ask you to reduce our rations, we did not ask you to put us in Poppendorf and Am Stau, we will tell you by 14.30 hours tomorrow 21st October whether we will send an advance party or not."

- 3. Camp Leaders to-day (21st October) agreed to their removal to their new accommodation. They also agreed to send an advance party which leaves by road p.m. 21st October and will return p.m. 22nd October 1947 after viewing both Emden and Sengwarden.
- 4. Timings for move of main party are now ETD 28th October and ETA 29th and 30th October.

Action:

Hr. J.H. Moore.

Distribution: Oasis.

G/317 0205 AFR/00

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE (GERMAN SECTION) TO LUBBECKE

No 8201 BASIC

CONFIDENTIAL.

23rd October 1947

IN EDIATE

Repeated. Berlin No 4860 BASIC Kiel No 8201 BA

No 8201 BASIC

D. 5 pm 23rd October 1947

Operation Oasis.

Thank you for your CCG 11813 (Sitrep No 17) of 21st October.

We should be glad to be informed regarding both the reactions of the Jews to their new accommodation and developments in their move.

ORIGINATOR.

Mr J.H. Moore (G23/643)

Distribution.

Oasis

G/317



OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE (GERMAN SECTION) TO LUBERCKE

No 8297 Basic

CONFIDENTIAL

24th.October 1947

IMMEDIATE

Repeated: Bielefeld D 6.50 pm 24th 00 (Disposals Group) for Brig NEKON) No 8297 Basic Berlin (No 4917 Basic) D 6.50 pm 24th October 1947

Kiel) No 8297 Hannover) Busic

Operation OASIS.

As requested in telecon SCANLETT/BELLIS on 24th October, have agreed with Ministry of Supply(Overseas Disposals (4)) to release of 350 (three hundred and fifty) wooden tables Barrack type) for use in camps to which Exodus Jews are to be transferred. Please submit formal demand.

Originator:

Miss Bellis

Distribution:

OASIS

Mr Hampshire
Mr Montford (6 copies)
Mr Kinnear
Col de Linde
Mr Durrows

Min of Supply:

Mr C W Reid (Overseas Disposals)

G/317

93 TED/RHR

66

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group	Fo
Class	37/
	61730

Following document(s) retained in the

Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

of the Public Records Act, 1958

E9649/48/31 E9671 E9674 COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

E

E 9730

20 OCT

1947

PALESTINE

Registry E9730/48/3/
FROM

From

Ex (rac)

No. Naily Legraph

Dated

Received in Registry 20 Och.

Allegal famingantion

The I.R.D. in Genera in propound a direction

which it is happed will a book lither incomment

of times into Play.

Tenske romment on how direction

will work.

(Minutes.)

Last Paper

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Galian Servin F. B. Z'/"

(5. E. CABHÉ)

J3M. N

I believe that this report is substantially correct in Italy PCIRO have also reduced the ration scales for d.p.s to bring them more into line with those prevailing elsewhere. In addition the Jewish organisations are protesting vigorously. In addition the fewish organisations are protesting vigorously. In addition the few orch villains sorieri and Varrichions have been dissuined the two arch-villains sorieri and Varrichions have been dissuined the two arch-villains sorieri and Varrichions will remains, by PCIRO and although the pleable M' Heeny still remains, by PCIRO and although the pleable Move a British second it is almost certain that he will have a British second it is almost certain that him too the line.

5/11

(Action completed)

Next Paper

9735

38538

copyRight of the Public Record Office, LONDON

1 2 3 4 5 6 Reference

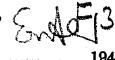
CopyRight of the Public Record Office, London

Reference

371 6 8 830

DAILY TELEGRAPH.

Cutting dated.....1 6 0CT 1947



CHECK ON JEWS BOUND FOR PALESTINE

NEW BULES FOR ITALIAN CAMPS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT ROME, Wednesday.

The International Refugee Organisation in Geneva is, I learn, preparing a directive which it is hoped will help to check the movement of Jews into Italy.

It will be ruled that persons will not be eligible for admission to the I.R.O. camps if they have come without authorisation from another country where they were already adequately cared for.

This will mean that Jews arriving here from Austrian camps on the way to Palestine will not be able to claim shelter in Italian I.R.O. camps while awaiting their chance of secret embarkation. They will have to rely entirely upon private charity and the aid of Jewish organisations. of Jewish organisations.

Although the precise terms of the ruling are not yet known, some observers here doubt whether such a measure could be effectively enforced. It would be difficult to ascertain whether a refugee had come from an Austrian camp or was a "fresh intake."

TIGHTENED CONTROL

A check will, however, be provided by the "ceiling" placed upon I.R.O. admissions to Italy and by a close system of registration now being carried out. A maximum of 32,500 refugees can be accommodated and fed in the 15 I.R.O. camps and the 79 Jewish training centres provisioned Jewish training centres provisioned by the I.R.O. in Italy. The numbers to-day are only 700 short of this

Tightened control of I.R.O. camps in Italy will stop two abuses which have facilitated illegal migration. Jews will no longer be able to move freely from camp to camp until they reach planned embarkation points. Nor will they be able, by false declaration of the numbers in camp to accumulate reserves of rations for the accumulate reserves of rations for the

REFUGEES PHOTOGRAPHED

Every person is being issued with an identification card bearing his photograph. The task of photographing more than 30,000 refugees and displaced persons is now 90 per cent. complete.

Anyone is free to leave a camp, but without authorisation and production of an identity card none can enter a new camp. Registration also enables the exact numbers in a camp to be ascertained, so that there will be no over-issue of rations.

"Ration control is the pinch" an administrator told me to-day.

"It means that migration will be more

means that migration will be more expensive and more difficult."
Mr. M. Keeny, chief of the I.R.O. mission in Italy, said: "It is essential that the problem be tackled before these people get into Italy."

PUBL I C OFFICE,

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group	Fo
Class	37/
.	61830

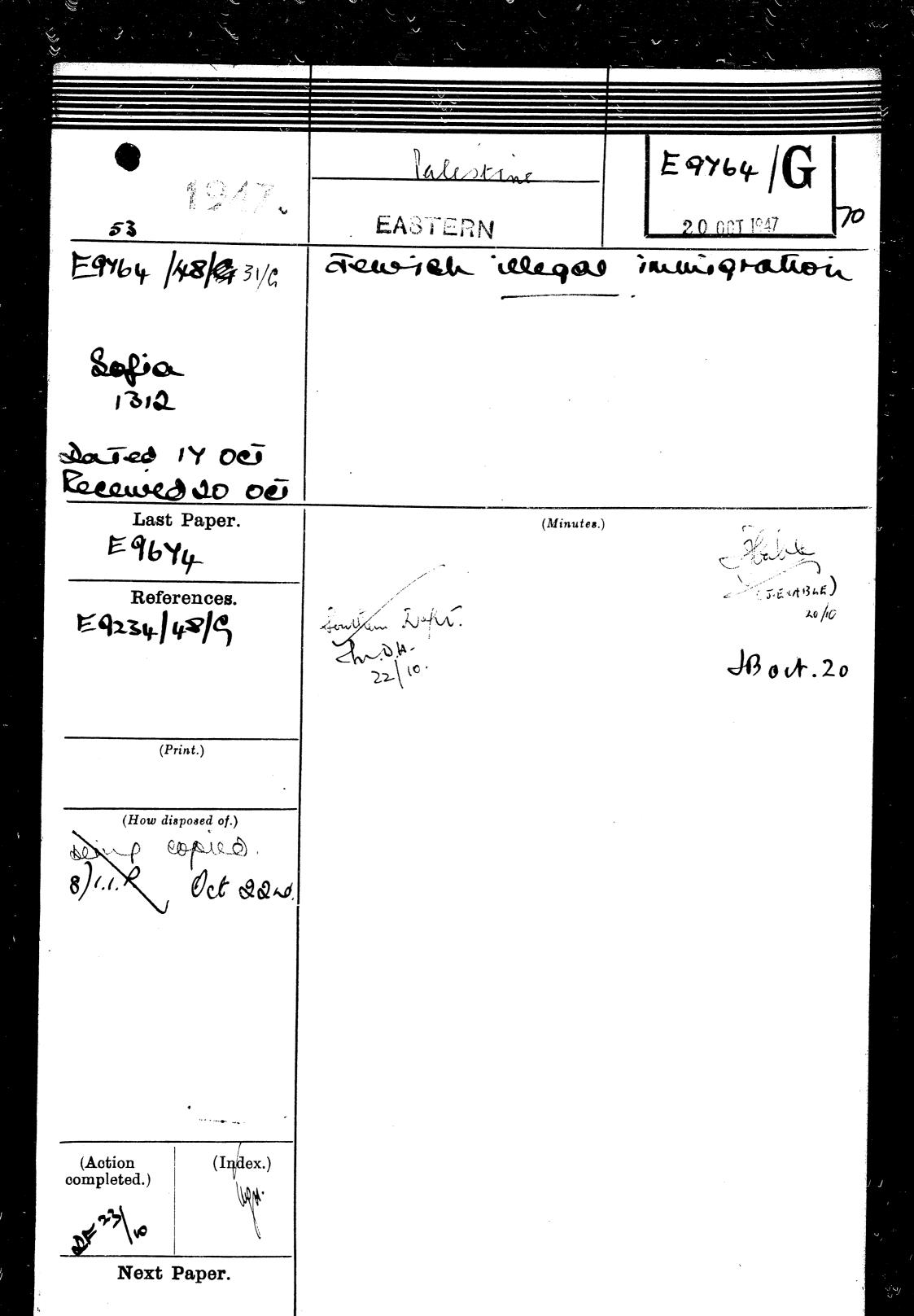
Following document(s') retained in the

Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

of the Public Records Act, 1958

E9735/48/31

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



7

-gree.

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM SOFIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Sterndale Bennett.

No. 1312.

D. 4.53 p.m. 17th October 1947.

17th October 1947.

Repeated to Bucharest, Washington, United Kingdom
Delegation New York, Jerusalem.

IMPORTANT. RESTRICTED.

Your telegram No. 1433.

Illegal Jewish immigration.

I had already taken action on these lines in an interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on October 15th on the basis of Jerusalem telegram No. 1396. I am today sending to him a letter confirming what I then said and adding that I have since had a telegram from you emphasising the importance which His Majesty's Government attaches to frustrating this particular attempt to land illegal immigrants in Palestine.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington, United Kingdom Delegation New York and Jerusalem as my telegrams Nos. 237, 14 and 38.

[Repeated to Washington and United Kingdom Delegation New York. | Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem.]

* 5 6 Reference FO 371 \$ 1830

0:0

[This telegram is of particular sedrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Confidential. Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO SOFIA NO. 1433.

BUCHAREST NO. 1130.

15th October 1947. D. 2.50 a.m. 16th October 1947. Repeated to Washington No. 10603, United Kingdom Delegation New York No. 3495, Jerusalem.

IMMEDIATE. CONFIDENTIAL.

Your telegram No. 1237 [of September 30th: Jewish No. 1072 [of October 4th: Illegal Immigration].

I have been considering report by Official Committee on Illegal Immigration which reveals that the arrival of Pan Crescent and Pan York in Palestine waters with their estimated load of 16,500 illegal immigrants will create a critical situation. Please impress upon the Bulgarian/Roumanian Government that His Majesty's Government attach the highest importance to preventing the departure of either of these vessels with illegal There is no doubt whatsoever about the immigrants. intentions of those responsible for operating the ships and, whatever false documents or visas may be produced by the Jews, the Bulgarian/Roumanian Government can be assured that none of the passengers can possibly be in possession of a permit to enter Palestine (or indeed for any of the Arab States which were mentioned by the Bulgarian authorities as being the destination of some of the last batch).

E9465 G 20 00T 1947-73 EASTERN F9465 148/431/6 Hovemonts of the Yilderan Pais 966 Dorson 1900. Last Paper. to ours od 5 9150. E9764 References. (Print.) (How disposed of.) opied 1 Oct 22 nd. Tel). Angora 908 Oct 000. Rødd, Marselles 154 Parco 1954 Sas. Rome 316 Sav. completed.) Next Paper.

30047 F.O.P.

Cypher/OTP

FROM PARIS TO MARSEILLES

Mr. Duff Cooper.

D. 5.21 p.m. 19th October, 1947 No. 119 19th October, 1947 R. 5.40 p.m. 19th October, 1947

Repeated to Fereign Office No. 966

SECRET

Fereign Office telegram No. 2207 to Rome.

Navel Attaché has been informed by the Admiralty that "Yilderan" sailed from Spezia yesterday, 18th October. It is reliably reported that she will embark illegal Jewish immigrants from a village between Marseilles and Sete and it is estimated that she may arrive there teday. She is said to have a capacity for 500.

You should urge local authorities mest strengly to take all pessible steps to prevent embarkation and departure of illegal immigrants on this vessel. Similar representations are being made here.

kkk

OFFICE, LONDON

L IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. £ 9765/48/6-

Top Secret.
Secret

Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

ANGRA

Telegram.

No. 908

(Date) OCT 20

Repeat to:-

Maraille Nr. 15H.
Parsi Nr. 1954 SAVING.
Rome Nr. 316 SAVING.

En Clair.
Code.
Cypher.

Distribution :-

Defortmental NO.

Copies to:—

I.I.P.

July Cont

October: Jemish albyed municipation]
Detaber: Jemish albyed municipation]
Detaber: Ship sailed 18th October.
Proceedings unknown.

\$ 20/10

Vt. 43697-140 100m 3/47 G.S.St. Gp 620

14

E9765/48/G Restricted En Clair

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ANGORA

No. 908 20th October, 1947. D. 8.22 p.m. 20th October, 1947

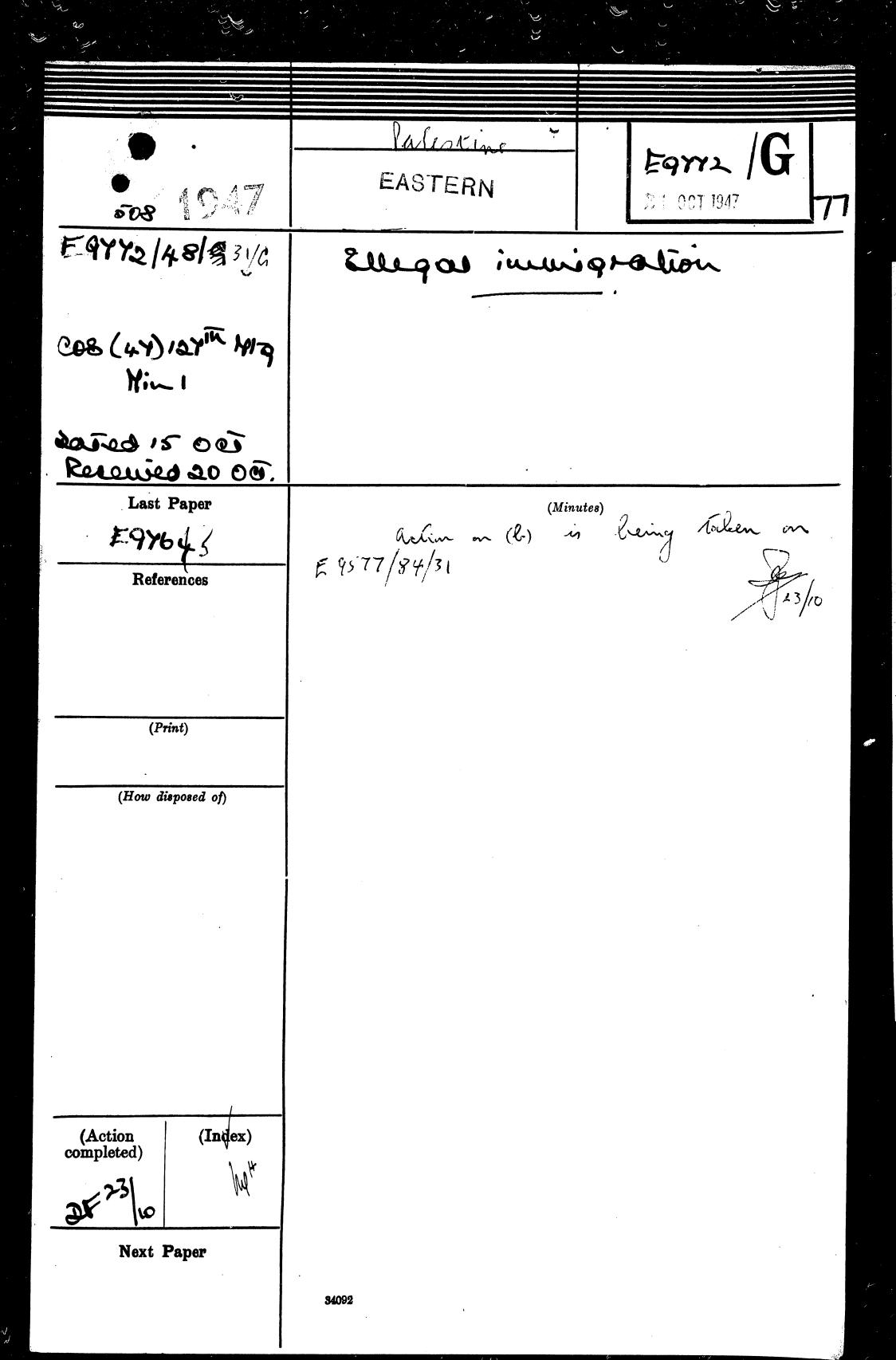
Repeated to Marseilles No. 154 Paris No. 1954 Saving Rome No. 316 Saving

IMPORTANT

My telegram No. 906 [of 18th October: Jewish illegal immigration].

Ship sailed 18th October. Present whereabouts unknown.

0000



200. 9. 1947 Fallen Affanis 78

(THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT)

TOP SHCRET

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

C.O.S.(47) 27 Meeting, Items 7, 644

1947.

An extract from the above minutes is attached.

(Signed) D.C. STAPLETON.

Ministry of Defence, S.W.1. 15 / Kione, 1947.

78A

In anticipation of the instructions of the Chiefs of Staff, the Admiralty have been invited to examine the attached letter from the Colonial Office and prepare a draft reply.

THE PUBLIC

OFFICE,

1. PALESTINE - ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(47) 110th Meeting, Minute 12)

C.O.S.(47) 214 (0)

THE COMMITTEE had before them a memorandum by the First Sea Lord examining a letter from the Chairman of the official Committee on Illegal Immigration asking whether the Chiefs of Staff were prepared to agree to the return of illegal immigrants to Bulgarian and Rumanian ports without Naval escort. It was recommended in this memorandum that the Chiefs of Staff should reply that they had no objection to the sailing of illegal immigrants without Naval escorts provided that some escort was sent as a safeguard against disaster.

SIR FRANK SIMPSON said the War Office had previously objected to ships carrying illegal immigrants being unescorted owing to the danger of illegal immigrants overpowering the military guards and taking charge of the ship. The proposal now made by the First Sea Lord that some escert, in the form of a smaller merchant ship, covered the previous War Office objection provided the escort ship carried a reserve of military guards and provided ships carrying illegal immigrants could be boarded by the military guards carried on board the escort ship.

SIR JCHN EDELSTEN said there would be no objection to carrying extra military guards on board the escert ship, but owing to the type of escert ship it was proposed to employ it would not be possible for these extra guards to board any ships carrying illegal immigrants in the case of trouble. Boarding was a highly technical operation which was not likely to be within the capabilities of the complement of the escert ship. He thought that the presence of an escert ship carrying extra military guards should be sufficient to deter illegal immigrants from taking serious action, but in the event of serious trouble arising, Naval reinforcements would have to be sent for. He felt, therefore, that the proposal should be given a trial on the lines suggested by the First Sea Lord.

SIR FRANK SIMPSON acreed and said he would be prepared to agree to ships carrying illegal immigrants to Bulgarian and Rumanian ports being unescorted provided a smaller merchant thip was sent with the convoy in place of a Naval escort and provided extra military guards could be carried on board this escort ship.

There was general agreement with this proposal. .

THE COMMITTEE:

- (a) Instructed the Secretary to reply to the Chairman of the official Committee on Illegal Immigration in the light of the above.
- (b) Took note that the Admiralty would discuss separately with the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Transport the question of employing ex-corvettes, now employed as transports between Haifa and Cyprus, as escorts to the Black Sea.
 - + C.O.S. (47) 206 (0)
 - # Annex I to follow

ANNEX I

Copy of a letter (reference COS 1158/15/10/7) dated 15th October, 1947, from the Secretary, Chiefs of Staff Committee to the Chairman, Illegal Immigrants Committee.

I am writing in reply to your letter 76021/64/2 dated 26th September, 1947 asking whether the Chiefs of Staff are prepared to agree to the return of Jewish Illegal Immigrants to Bulgarian and Rumanian ports without Naval escort.

I attach a copy of a memorandum by the First Sea Lord (C.O.S.(47)214(0) examining this question and recommending in paragraph 5 that the previous objection of the Chiefs of Staff to the sailing of illegal immigrants without Naval escort be withdrawn provided that some escort is sent as a safegaurd against disaster. For this purpose, it is proposed that one of the smaller ships used for transporting Jews from Palestine should be sent with the convoy in place of a Naval escort.

The Chiefs of Staff agree with this recommendation provided that extra military guards are carried on board the escort ship. They feel that the presence of such a ship with soldiers on board should be sufficient to deter the Jewish illegal immigrante from taking scrious action en route. In the event of serious trouble, however, on board the ships carrying illegal immigrants, Naval reinforcements would need to be called since the highly technical operation of boarding such ships to quell the trouble is likely to be beyond the capacity of the escort ship.

In paragraph 6 of the attached memorandum, you will see that the question of whether it would be legal and politically possible, within the terms of the Montreux Convention, to use the ex-corvettes now employed between Haifa and Cyprus as escorts to the Black Sea will be discussed separately between the Admiralty, the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Transport.

6 Reference

371/6183

OFFICE,

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

THE PUBLIC

OFFICE,

61830

The circulation of this paper has been strictly limited. It is issued for the personal use of S.S. Fundam Affairs

Copy No. 66.

TOP SECRET

C.O.S. (47) 214 (0). 9th October, 1947.

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION PALESTINE

Memorandum by the First Sea Lord

The Admiralty have considered a letter dated 26th September from the Chairman of the Official Committee on Illegal Immigration asking whether the Chiefs of Staff are prepared to agree to the return of illegal immigrants to Bulgarian and Roumanian ports without Naval escort. The reason for this proposal is that under the Montreux Convention British warships can only pass through the Straits after giving fifteen days' notice, can only remain in the Black Sea for twenty-one days and must give three days' notice of any alteration of the date of passage laid down in the notification to the Turkish Government. Thus it would be necessary for illegal immigrants arriving in Palestine waters to be held at Haifa until the necessary period of notice had expired. This has always been regarded as unacceptable.

- At a meeting of the Chiefs of Staff on 20th September, 1946, the First Sea Lord suggested that as a means of gaining experience ships carrying illegal immigrants should be sailed to Cyprus without escort, since it would be impossible to provide escorts if, as then seemed probable, Cyprus became full and it became necessary to send them to Kenya or some other distant destination. Although the Commanders in Chief, Middle East, were prepared to agree to this, the War Office objected on the grounds of the danger to the military guards created by the absence of escort and of the increased number of guards which would be required in an unescorted ship. In view of these objections and the obvious political objections raised by the Foreign Office, the Colonial, Office and the Ministry of Transport, the Admiralty agreed to withdraw their proposal, but asked that the matter be reviewed in six months! time. This was agreed at the 25th Meeting of the Chiefs of Staff on 14th February.
- When the matter was reviewed in August, the Admiralty did not press their point because they had subsequently committed themselves to the policy of refoulement which involved long voyages for escorts and had reinforced the Mediterranean Fleet for that very purpose.

+ C.O.S. (47)206(0)

/ 131/CCL.

ø Memorandum of 6th February.

- 4. The motive of the Admiralty's original proposal was economy: the motive of the Illegal Immigration Committee's present proposal is the overcoming of a legal difficulty. Thus it is proposed that one of the smaller merchant ships used for removing Jews from Palestine should be sent with the convoy in place of a Naval escort. This ship would act as a rescue ship in the event of damage by sabotage or some other means to one of those carrying the Jews. This should overcome the objections to the Admiralty's earlier proposal.
- 5. It is recommended, therefore, that the Chiefs of Staff should inform the Illegal Immigration Committee that they have no objection to the sailing of illegal immigrants without Naval escort provided that some escort is sent as a safeguard against disaster.
- 6. The question of whether it would be legally and politically possible, within the terms of the Montreux Convention, to use the ex-Corvettes, which are now employed as transports between Haifa and Cyprus, as escorts to the Black Sea, will be discussed separately with the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Transport.

(initialled) J.H.D.C.

Ministry of Defence, S.W.l. 9th October, 1947.

E1058 Wt.45470-D8A 100M 2/47 Gp.58 F. & C. Ltd., London

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

The circulation of this paper has been strictly limited.

It is issued for the personal use of S.S. Fuelen

TOP SECRET

Copy No.

C.O.S. (47) 206 (0)

27th September, 1947.

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

PALESTINE - ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

Copy of a letter (reference 76021/64/2) dated 26th September, 1947, from the Colonial Office to the Secretary, Chiefs of Staff Committee.

The Chiefs of Staff are no doubt aware that the organisers of Jewish illegal immigration to Palestine appear to be contemplating the embarkation of a number of illegal immigrants in Rumania or possibly Bulgaria. There are two ships - NORTHLANDS and PADUCAH - at present in the Black Sea and it is known that there is a considerable concentration of would-be immigrants to Palestine in Rumania.

The Illegal Immigration Committee have therefore been considering the possibilities of carrying out a "refoulement" operation to the Black Sea. It is of course too early as yet to say whether or not the necessary degree of co-operation to make such an operation feasible would be forthcoming from the Rumanian or Bulgarian Governments. There have however been indications that they might possibly be disposed to help us in this matter.

There are however certain practical difficulties in carrying our refoulement to the Black Sea in view of the Montreux Convention, which requires that fifteen days' notice should be given before one of our warships passes through the Straits. Unless therefore the ship, or ships, carrying the returning immigrants were to wait for some days it would not be possible for the escorting warships to go beyond the entrance to the Straits. There are likely to be strong political objections, in view of the marine risk, to allowing a transport crowded with Jews to proceed without escort, and it has accordingly been suggested that one or more of the ex-corvettes now in use as transports between Palestine and Cyprus might accompany the return ship or convoy as a rescue ship.

THE PUBLIC

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

I am informed that the Chiefs of Staff have previously given some consideration, originally in February, and again in August of this year, to the possibility of allowing transports carrying illegal immigrants to proceed without naval escort, but that they have not come to any final conclusion on this matter.

The Colonial Office have asked the Palestine Government in consultation with the Service authorities to investigate the possibilities of freeing one or more of the ex-corvettes for a possible refoulement operation, but meanwhile I should be grateful if you would ask the Chiefs of Staff for their views on allowing a ship or convoy, carrying illegal immigrants, to enter the Black Sea without naval escort.

(Signed) (J.D. Higham)
(Acting) Chairman,
Illegal Immigration
Committee.

Ministry of Defence, S.W.1. 27th September, 1947.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

85

Following document(s) retained in the

Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

of the Public Records Act, 1958

E9773/48/31

	Mestine	Easia / G
510	EASTERN	23 00T 1947 86
E 9817 /48/\$ 31/G	S.s. Yildesan	
Paris 969		
क्रम्क था ०लं		
Received 2100.		
Last Paper.	(Minutes.) April 2000 (Minutes.)	duco
References.	The "yilderan" has no in 7-unce and is "lost". This telegram so The French attitude is	for the moment,
(Print.)	the French allitude	(5.E.cABLE)
(How disposed of.)	Western Deft.	23/10 Bort. 23
	You but un fortunately	h. hech
•	and he Depreux are to	he he he
	hen government.	John Willow.
		25/10
(Action (Index.) completed.)		
25/10 Wh.		
Next Paper.		

30471 F.O.P.

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FOM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper

D: 1.12 p.m. 21st October, 1947.

No. 969

21st October, 1947

R: 1.12 p.m. 21st October, 1947.

Repeated to: Marseilles Jerusal em

IM EDIATE

Foreign Office please pass Important to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 50.

Your telegram No. 2349.

"Yilderan" and Jewish illegal immigration.

Instructions have been issued to all Prefects in South France to look out for arrival of Yilderan and to prevent embarkation of illegal immigrants to Palestine.

- 2. M. Bousquet states that Council of Ministers recently decided that all ships leaving French ports will only be granted sufficient bunkers to take them to their next port of call. Steps are now being taken to enforce this decision.
- 5. Ministry of Foreign Affairs propose, subject to the approval of the Council of Ministers, to make all visas on individual foreign passports for Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia and Ethiopia, dependent on scrutiny and endersement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They hope by this means to check forgeries of visas for the four countries whose visas have been most freely forged by organisations concerned in the illicit traffic. This also to some extent meets our objection that scrutiny was hitherto confined to collective passports.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for retransmission to Jerusalem]. GGGG

88

E9814/18/6

AMENDMENT SLIP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

Paris telegram No. 969 to Foreign Office of 21st October.

Please add footnote:

"[Copy sent to Admiralty for repetition to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean]".

Communications Department.
25/10/47.

371/\$1830

E 9818 145/2 31/a	Palestine EASTERN EASTERN 8.8. Yildwan 8.8. Yildwan
Augora 748 2000 2000i Received 2100.	
Last Paper.	spare sij alla de le
References.	Unfortunately the "yilderan" scribed unbarrador on the 13 the before the Turkish Umbarrador had taken action. She is "lost" at had been action. She is "lost" at hid her
	had taken action. She is "last at he find her, the moment but, as soon as we find her, we can ask the Tules to take the
(Print.)	action kromised. The "Bulaninge" is no longer suspect.
(How disposed of.) 701) Augora 923 25 200	CT E. LABLE)
Roje Marselles Paris 1973 Sav Rome 327 Sav.	Southern Vehr. John 123/10 John 23/10
(Action completed.) Next Paper.	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

51830

30471 F.O.P.

E9818

0,0

Cypher/OTP

21 001 1347 DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM ANGORA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir D.Kelly,

D. 8.56 a.m. 21st October, 1947.

No.748

20th October, 1947. R. 10.42 a.m. 21st October, 1947.

Repeated to Rome, Paris.

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

IMPORTANT

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No.906.

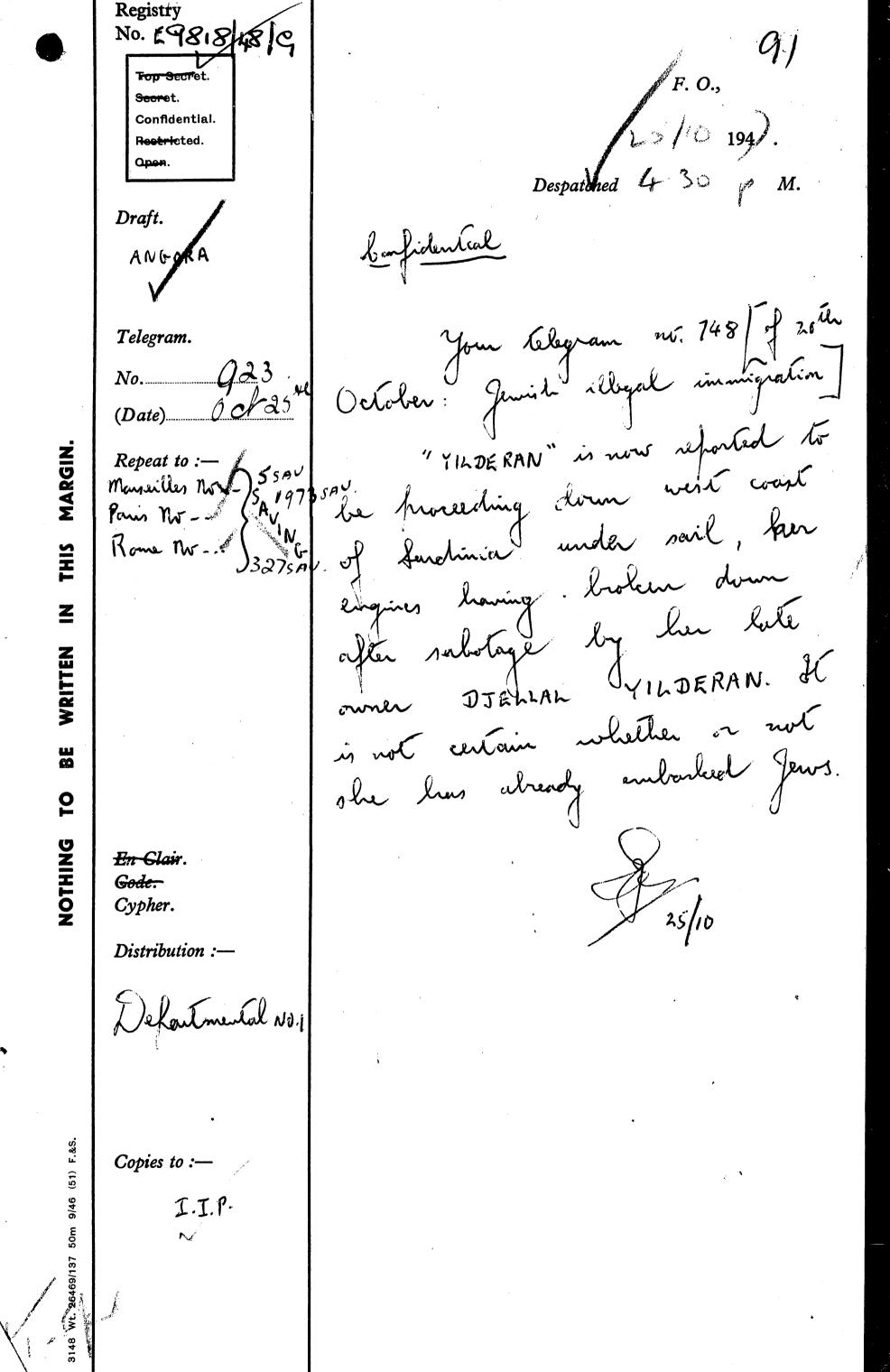
I gave Secretary General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs today memorandum regarding s.s. "Yilderan". He showed me large file on the subject with telegram to the Turkish Ambassador in Rome on October 14th ordering immediate return of this vessel to Turkey. He is now sending Turkish Ambassador instructions to take whatever action he can to prevent this ship mixing in Jewish immigration traffic.

- 2. Secretary General volunteered that Turkish Government had also been trying to secure return of s.s. "Burhaniye",1958 tons, till recently engaged in traffic between Marseilles and Cyprus, which they suspect is also likely to engage in this traffic. This information had also been given by Ministry of Communications to Naval Attaché who had reported it to Admiralty and Cyprus.
- 3. Secretary General repeated to me desire of Turkish Government to co-operate in any way they could against this traffic.

Foreign Office please repeat to Paris as my telegram No.77 and Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean as my telegram No.5.

> [Repeated to Paris. Copies sent to War Registry. Admiralty for repetition to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean].

Q.Q



Que 92

CONFIDENTIAL

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ANGORA

No. 923

D. 4.30 p.m. 25th October, 1947.

25th October, 1947.

Repeated to : Marseilles No. 5)

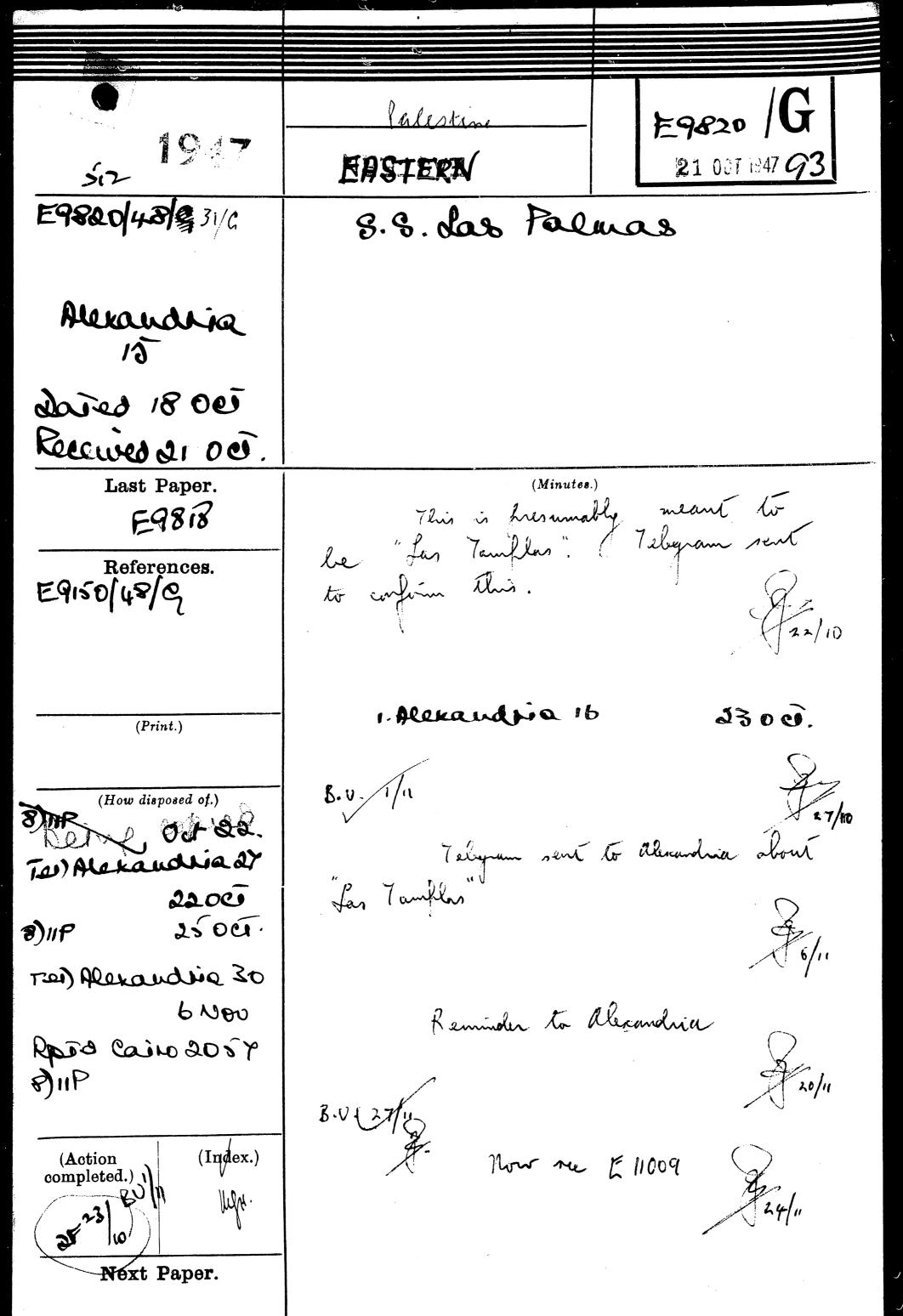
Peris No. 1973 Saving

Rome No. 327

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegrem No. 748 [of 20th October: Jewish illegal immigration].

"Yilderan" is now reported to be proceeding down west coast of Sardinia under sail, her engines having broken down after sabotage by her late owner Djellal Yilderan. It is not certain whether or not she has already embarked Jews.



30047 F.O.P.

94

Ted Alexandria 32 20 Nov Rpia Cairo 2145 8) 11P 22Nov

6 Reference

371/61830

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO.

FROM ALEXANDRIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

E9820

His Majesty's Consul General.
No. 15. D. 4.47 p.m. 20th October 1947. 18th October 1947. R. 4.27 p.m. 20th October 1947. Repeated to Cairo No. 14 Saving.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Jewish illegal immigration. E9150 Your telegram No. 26 of October 16th. S.S. Las Palmas has not visited Alexandria.

W:W:W:W:W

Draft. A LEXANDRIA Telegram. (Date) \$1'22 MARGIN. Repeat to: WRITTEN 10 En Clair. Gypher. Cypher Distribution :-FILES

Copies to:

I.I.P.

Registry
No. £9320/48/6-

Top Secret

Restricted.

Despatched 4 30 p.M.

Restricted

Restricted

Restricted

October: Jewish illegal manipation

Jour telegram under reference

"LAS PALMAS". Please

confirm that "LAS TAMPLAS" was

intended.

Reference **FO** 371 \$1830

Vt. 43697-140 100m 3/47 G.S.St. Gp 620

19 2 6 Man

(E 982Q/48/G)

9

(Restricted)

Cypher/OTP

FILES.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ALEXANDRIA.

No. 27. D. 4.50 p.m. 22nd October, 1947. 22nd October, 1947.

RESTRICTED.

Your telegram No. 15 [of 18th October: Jewish illegal immigration].

Your telegram under reference mentioned "Las Palmas". Please confirm that "Las Tamplas" was intended.

355

FO 3

11/\$183

E8920

CYPHER/OTP

FROM ALEXANDRIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

D.5.50 p.m. 23rd October 1947

His Majesty's Consul General No: 16 25rd October 1947

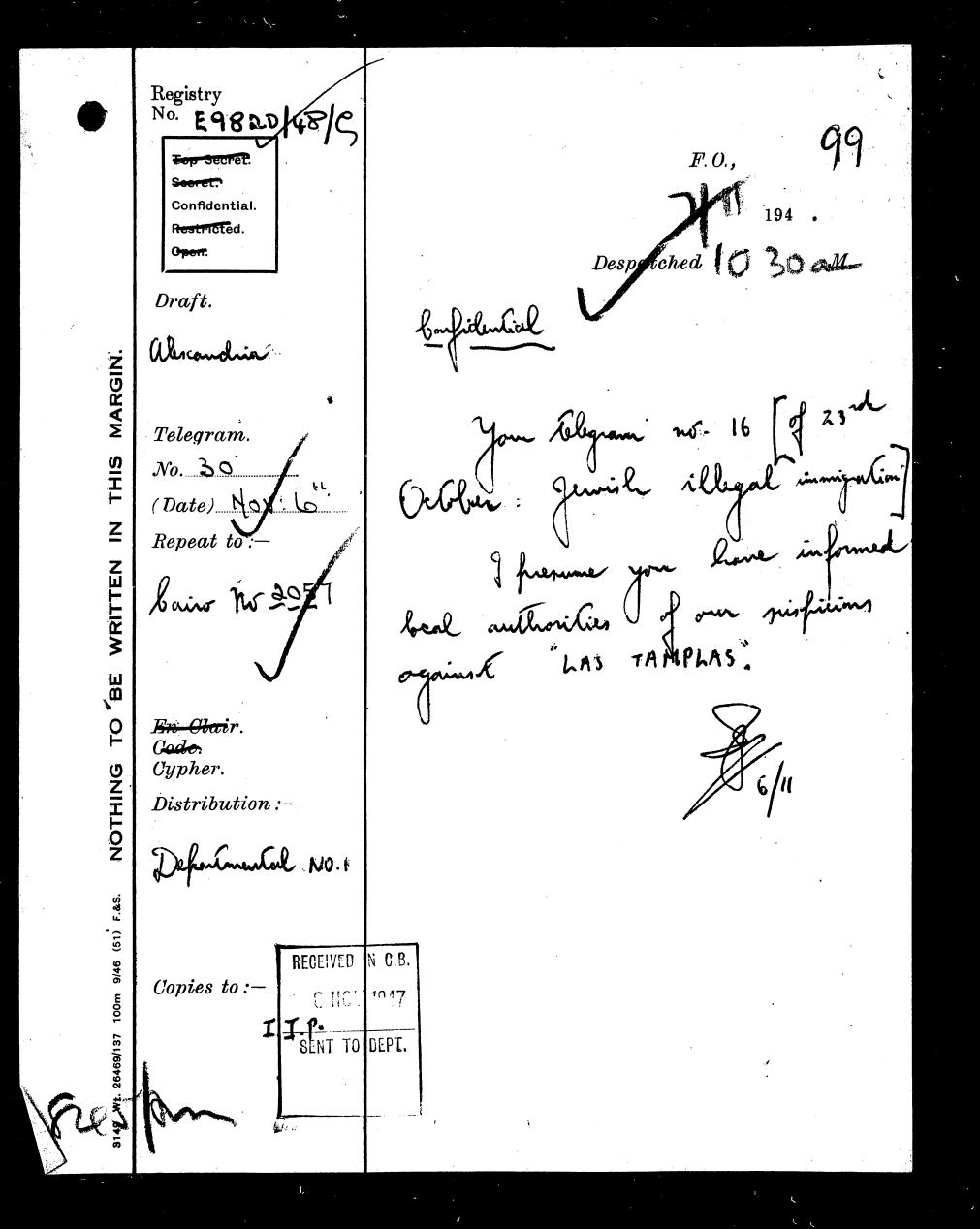
R.5.55 p.m. 25rd October 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No: 27.

My telegram No: 15 referred to s.s. Las Palmas. S.s. Las Tamples arrived Alexandria on September 9th and is still here. It is reported that vessel may remain about a month. Embassy Caire and Senior Naval Officer Intelligence Port Said already informed.

31830



COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE,

LON DON

100

E Confidential

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ALEXANDRIA

No. 30

D.10.30 a.m. 7th November, 1947.

6th November, 1947.

Repeated to Cairo No. 2057.

CONFIDENTIAL

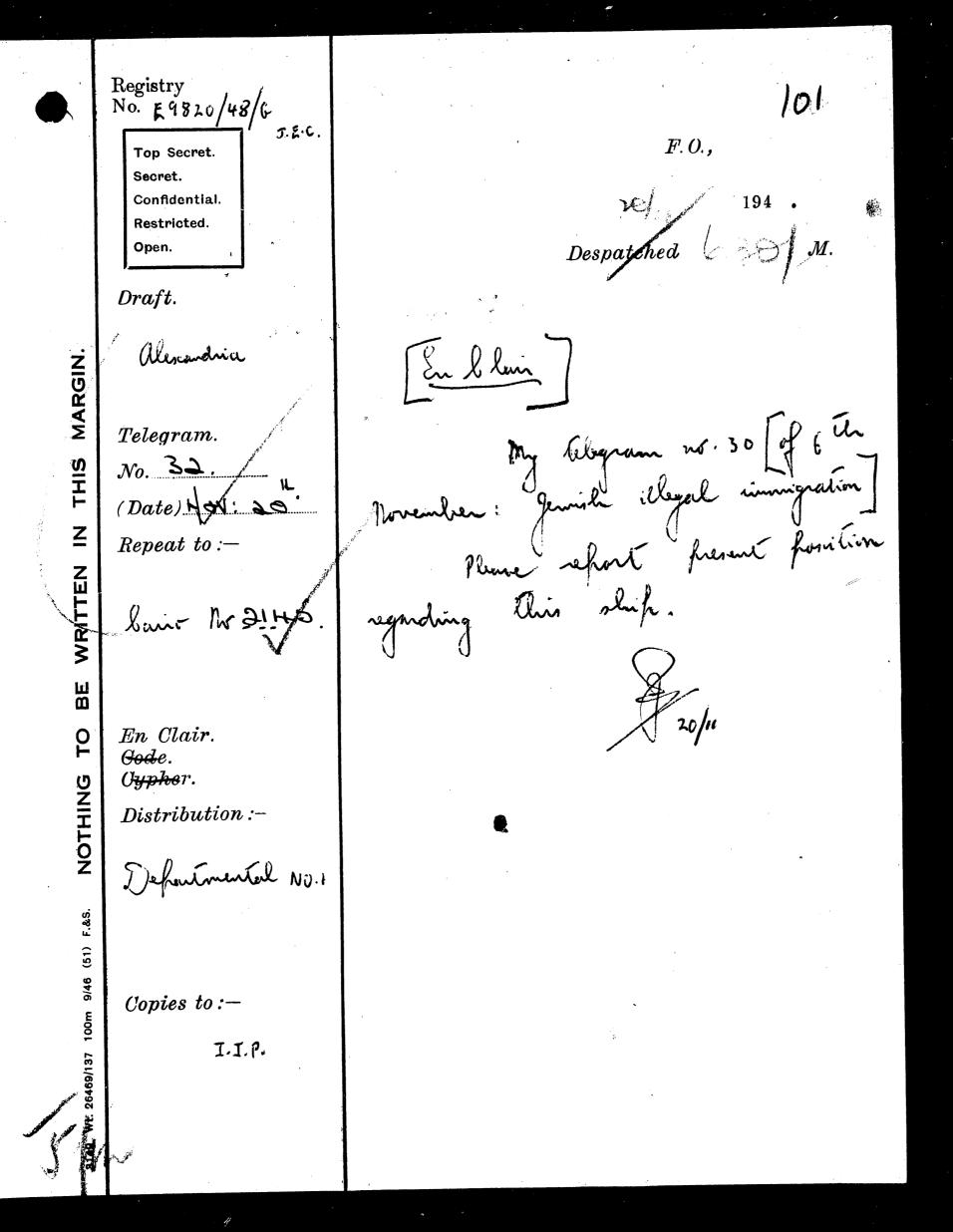
Your telegram No. 16 [of 25rd October: Jewish illegal immigratioh].

I presume you have informed local authorities of our suspicions against "Las Tamplas".

111

271 210

371/ \$1830



COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

E9820/48/G En Clair DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ALEXANDRIA.

No. 52.

D. 6.30 p.m. 20th November, 1947.

20th November, 1947.
Repeated to: Cairo No. 2145.
[En Clair]

My telegram No. 50 [of 6th November: Jewish illegal immigration].

Please report present position regarding this ship.

222

THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

.

·

103

FROM FOREMON OFFICE TO ALEXANDRIA.

RND.

D. 6.50 p.m. With November, 1947.

10th November, 1947. Repeated to: Cairo No. 2145. [Bn Clair]

illegal immigration). 80 [of 6th November: Jewish

Please report present position regarding this

THE PUBLIC

830